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THE MARTLET

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Movie sparks debate

Will Johnson

Nobody is going to stop you from seeing *Blindness*.

A controversial film based on Portuguese Nobel-laureate author José Saramago's 1995 novel, *Blindness* has sparked an international back-lash from the blind community and its allies.

The film's depiction of citizens being mysteriously struck blind has been called offensive, inaccurate and fear-mongering by the Canadian Federation of the Blind. The group, based out of Victoria, staged protests outside the SilverCity theater when the film was screened there in October.

However, that doesn't mean students shouldn't check it out for themselves when it premieres at UVic's Cinecenta this weekend. It will be playing at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

"We're not necessarily protesting, and we're not going to stop anyone from watching the movie," said Erin Lacharity, a blind undergraduate student at UVic. "We just want to raise awareness."

Representatives from Access UVic will be at the screening and plan to have a table set up with information available for moviegoers. Though they feel the movie is inaccurate and potentially dangerous, they also hope it can be an opportunity for education and dialogue, said Access UVic director Rose Mariana Robb.

"In the film, the characters lose their humanity ... their dignity, along with their sight," Robb said. "This is not a realistic depiction at all."

> "I've always thought it's better to show controversial films, and let the audience make up their own minds."
>
> –Michael Ryan
> Cinecenta Manager

In reality, she said, blind people are high-functioning members of society who contribute in meaningful ways. Robb acknowledges that the central premise of the film is a metaphor, but she emphasized that it plays on people's irrational misconceptions and fears.

"Not only does this movie play on these fears and show these fears, it may actually increase them," Robb said.

Michael Ryan, the manager of Cinecenta, said that the decision to screen the movie was made months ago. Having enjoyed Saramago's book, Ryan was excited to see the film.

See Blindness, p. 2.

TAKING A STAND

TROOPS OUT
FIGHT THE CUTS
REDUCE TUITION
STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY - SDS
ONE WORLD · ONE STRUGGLE
EDUCATION IS NOT FOR SALE

KAT ESCHNER PHOTO

Students for a Democratic Society joins Camosun College and UVic students to advocate for causes from war to education and more.

Activist club makes noise at UVic

Kat Eschner

If you have an issue that you want to make some noise about, Victoria Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) might be just the group for you.

Though the Victoria SDS has their focus issues, the group wants to create a forum for all interest groups across Victoria, said SDS representative Scott Nunn.

Students for a Democratic Society is active in both the U.S. and Canada. The "New SDS" is based off a 1960s U.S. student group of the same name.

On the SDS website, the organization defines itself as a group that takes on the role of organizers as well as activists. Organizers, the site says, are "activists who also work to bring many other people into movements. They help build organizations and spaces that engage and activate new people."

Nunn said the Victoria chapter was started last year at Camosun College when he and several others discovered a shared political perspective.

He said the group became active at UVic when some members transferred to the university this year. He stressed that the group is more of a Victoria effort than an institution-specific one.

"We're really open to debate," Nunn said. "Even though we are partisan, we want to talk to people who have a different view, and open the dialogue."

SDS Victoria recently participated in the protest which took place when Stephen Harper opened the B.C. Day celebrations at the Legislature, and in the SDS International Day Against the Commercialization of Education, also at the Legislature.

At the B.C. Day protest, the group displayed a large sign reading "Harper: Pull out of Bush."

The deep integration of the U.S., Canada and Mexico is among the group's chosen issues. Nunn lamented the lack of organization at the B.C. Day protest, saying that teamwork among protest groups could have given the effort more impact.

For the Commercialization of Education rally, which the group organized, members visited Spectrum High School to talk about their cause in an attempt to draw some new faces out.

"Some of [the high schoolers] actually turned up at the rally," Nunn said. "That was kind of heartening."

The group also attended a Victoria Public Education Coalition (VPEC) panel. VPEC is a local group campaigning against privatization in the public school system, and the privatization of school fees.

"We set up shop there and were able to make some connections [with teachers]," said Nunn.

In September, the group organized and hosted a Guerilla Arts Festival, which Nunn described as "a community-building exercise." The one-day event involved live music and several speakers on issues such as the Olympics and the war in Iraq.

Nunn said there were about 10 tables set up at the event by local protest groups, and the event was held on the Camosun College grounds. Nunn said SDS originally approached UVic, but because the group is sponsored by local businesses, the university couldn't allow them to host the event on campus.

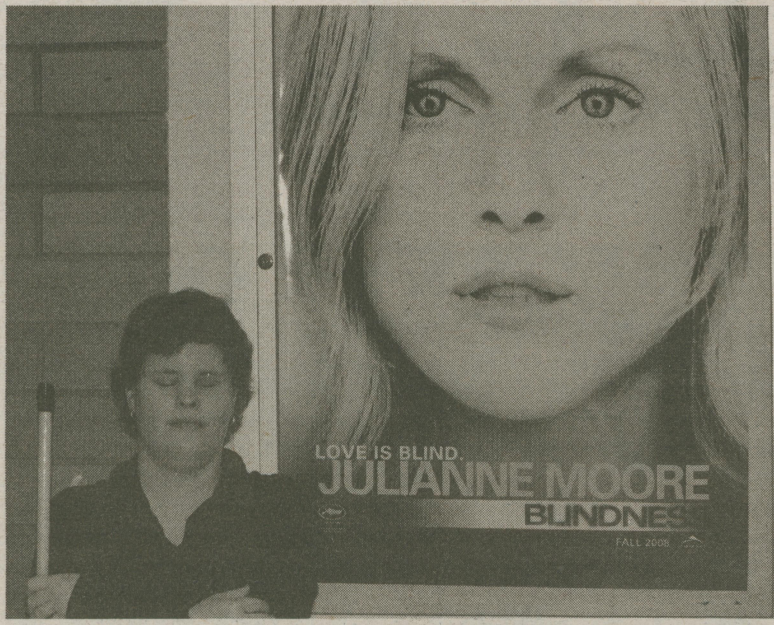
"What we're really focusing on now is the World-Against-War rally at the end of March, on the anniversary of the Iraq invasion," Nunn said.

Plans for that campaign include a three-month information blitz around campus. Nunn also said the group is tentatively assembling a panel or some other kind of forum before the event. The goal, he said, is to try and build a community of people who are interested.

Barring the difficulty with UVic over the Guerilla Arts Festival, Nunn said the response to the group's efforts has been positive overall.

"Even though there doesn't seem to be a huge activist community on campus, there're certainly people that are interested in the issues we're talking about," Nunn said. "We hope to at least give them an opportunity to get to know each other, get involved and maybe figure out what issue they're interested in."

Continued from p. 1



JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Blind student Erin Lacharity will help inform movie-goers about blind issues at *Blindness*, which is showing at Cinecenta despite controversy.

Blindness stereotypes confronted by group

He was made aware of the controversy at a UVSS board meeting in October, however, where Access presented their concerns about the potentially dangerous film.

Ryan approached members of Access and tried to brainstorm how to best deal with the controversy.

"[Access] had some legitimate concerns, and we were thankful for their alternate viewpoints," said Ryan. "I wanted to know if there was a way we could incorporate them into the screening."

Ryan was glad to hear that Access will have a presence at the screening, and hopes that positive dialogue can come from the experience.

"I've always thought it's better to show controversial films, and let the audiences make up their own minds," he said.

Robb echoed Ryan's sentiment.

"Our hope is that people going to the movie will look at it more critically," Robb said. "We're trying to look at this as an opportunity."

News reviews

YAY!

Victoria MP Denise Savoie was named Assistant Deputy Speaker in Parliament after being chosen by a unanimous motion voted on by all parties.

The duties of the Assistant Deputy Speaker include replacing the Deputy Speaker as the chair during unavoidable absences, and sitting on the Panel of Chairs for legislative committees.

Unlike the Speaker, who is not able to participate in debates, as one of four Assistant Deputy Speakers, Savoie will remain a full member of the NDP caucus, allowing her to speak for her constituents in the House of Commons and to continue her advocacy for the citizens of Victoria in the House.

Only one other NDP member has ever been selected before to serve in the Speaker's Chair, Bill Blaikie, who was Deputy Speaker in the last Parliament.

Savoie will be the only francophone member of the four-person Speaker's team.

ERR?

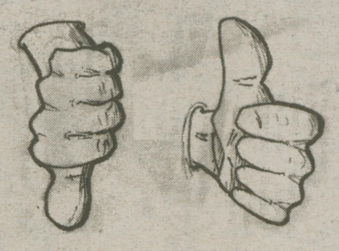
University of Ottawa undergraduate students narrowly voted to re-federate with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), after separating from the student lobby group 16 years ago.

Voter turnout on the referendum was unusually high, with 21 per cent of students voting. But their opinions were split. Just 52 per cent of the 6414 counted ballots were in favour of re-federating.

Sixty-seven ballots were recorded as spoiled and not counted, but even if they were counted, they wouldn't have changed the result.

Those opposing the group would have needed about 300 more votes to avoid seeing an increase in their student fees that comes with being part of the federation.

At UVic, undergraduate students are CFS members, while graduate students voted to de-federate from the group last year.



YAY!

UVic's Sustainability Action Plan is available to review and offer feedback on until Dec. 22.

The plan calls for the establishment of a formal framework to manage the university's physical and financial resources in a sustainable manner. It considers a "triple bottom line" theory, which aims to balance economic, social and environmental consequences.

The plan is available online at uvic.ca/sustainability, and comments can be sent to Sustainability Co-ordinator Sarah Webb, at swebb@uvic.ca.

NAY!

The number of employed people using food banks is at an all-time high, according to the annual Hunger Count released by Food Banks Canada.

In March 2008, 14.5 per cent of employed Canadians relied on assistance from food banks, up from the 11.9 per cent in 2002. This increase brought employed people up to the second-largest group accessing food banks.

The highest users of food banks are people relying on social assistance (welfare), making up 50.8 per cent of users. Other income types visiting the food banks were those collecting disability (12.7 per cent), pension (6.5 per cent), no income (5.2 per cent), other (4.9 per cent), employment insurance (4.8 per cent) and student loan (1.1 per cent).

-Sam VanSchie

CORRECTION

The Martlet erroneously reported in the Nov. 22 issue that "the bylaw allowing homeless people to set up temporary shelters was passed Oct. 14." In fact, parts of two city bylaws that made it illegal for homeless people to erect shelters were struck down that day.

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Victoria weathering global financial storm

David Karp

The local economy is in good shape compared to many other parts of the world, a panel of experts told a packed room of people during a Nov. 18 talk in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium.

The five-person panel — all with ties to UVic — agreed that the Canadian economy lacks the problems that have caused financial turmoil in the U.S. though they were reluctant to predict where the stock market would go in the next few months.

The talk, titled "Markets, Money and the Meltdown," was hosted by UVic's Office of the President and lasted for more than two hours.

Graham Voss, a UVic economics professor, noted that while the U.S., Japan and European Union countries are expecting their gross domestic product (GDP) to fall in 2009, Canada can expect positive GDP growth through 2010. But he stressed the projections are based on countries keeping their borders open.

"The credit crisis hasn't been anywhere as severe in Canada as it has been elsewhere, most notably in the U.S.," said Voss.

"The explanation seems to be that we have slightly better regulations for our banking sector and we have a slightly more risk-averse banking sector."

Still, the Bank of Canada is projecting the country's GDP growth to be 0.6 per cent in 2009, which would be the fourth-lowest annual growth rate for Canada in the last 50 years.

"Although it's not apparent in the B.C. economy right now ... Canada is looking at a fairly severe economic downturn, and B.C. is not going to be able to avoid that," Voss said.

However, Canadian banks are not changing their lending practices, said Tom Siemens, a member of UVic Business's board of advisers and Royal Bank's vice president of commercial banking for Vancouver Island South.

"Our credit standards have not changed," Siemens said. "There's not credit rationing in the sense [that] we're going to cut off this industry or we're going to cut off that industry."

Siemens said for every dollar Canadian banks receive in deposits, they can lend out $10.

He contrasted that against the $30 some Wall Street investment firms were leveraging against every dollar they received. When investors lost confidence and started withdrawing their money, some firms went under.

"Canada is not the U.S., particularly in the banking sector," Siemans said.

While the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the U.S. has some homeowners unable to afford their mortgage payments, Canada is experiencing less of a crisis.

Siemens said things are different on Vancouver Island.

"In Victoria, we've had one home foreclosure this year: a trailer in Sooke," he explained. "Not one business that deals with the Royal Bank in Victoria is delinquent on its payments."

For students who are graduating and looking to purchase a home, the financial crisis may even be good news.

Robert Jawl, a property developer and member of UVic Business's board of advisers, said buyers are in a much more favourable negotiation position than they were a year ago.

"With buyers thinking they have more options, and developers and investors out there more inclined to move product, the price dynamics are altered," he said.

Jawl said that while he expects construction projects to be delayed in the short run, Victoria has a healthy real estate market with low vacancy rates — which, he said, is good for the long run.

"With local assets like the provincial government, UVic, healthy tourism and technology sectors, a mild climate, mountains, ocean [and] golf in January, this should be a sustainable advantage for Victoria over the long haul," Jawl said.

Each panelist was given 10 minutes to speak on their chosen topic, with a question-and-answer session at the end.

However, moderator Lucinda Chodan let some speakers carry on for more than 25 minutes, leaving little time for questions.

University of Victoria
Who's to Blame?
Complex derivatives markets? (particularly default swaps)
On the hook
Securitization? Mark-to-market?
Corrupt credit rating agencies?Etc...

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Panelists compare the local economy with other parts of the world in the face of financial crisis.

WHAT IS GDP?

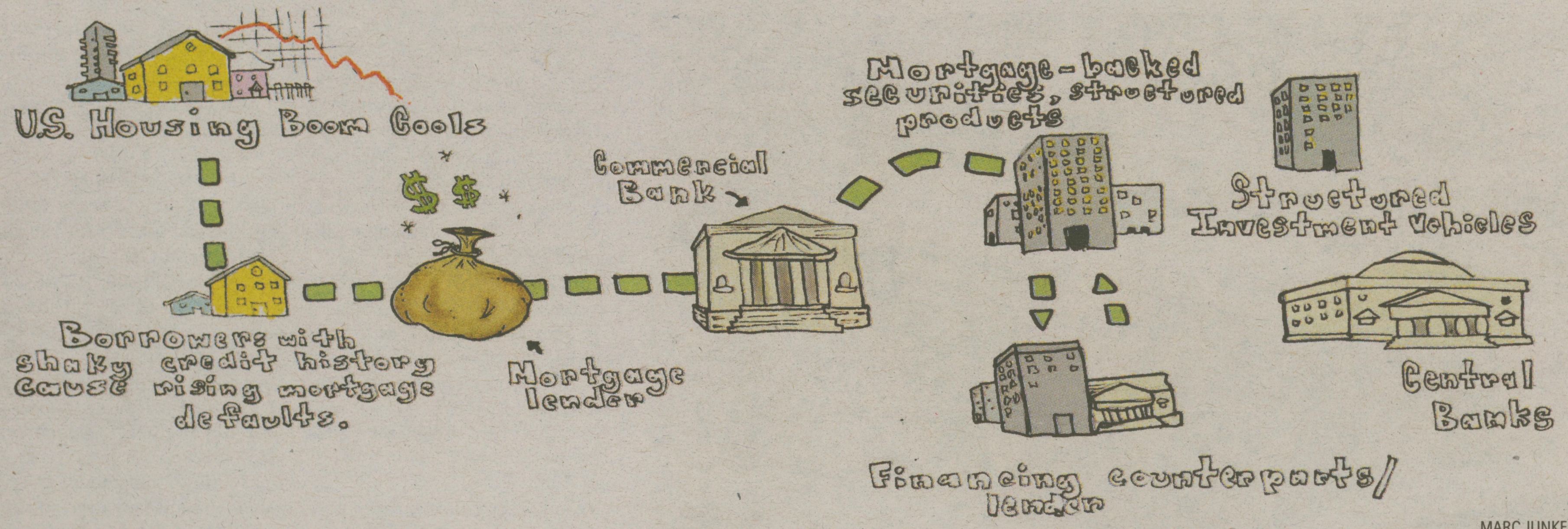
Gross domestic product — or GDP — measures the value of the goods and services an economy produces. It is commonly used as a benchmark for a country's economic health.

GDP is not a perfect measure of economic health, however. For example, volunteer work is not included in GDP, even though a paid worker completing those tasks would add to GDP. If Molly Maid cleans your room, it counts toward GDP, but not if Mom does it.

GDP also does not measure income inequality, and does not take into account black markets, such as B.C.'s thriving marijuana industry.

While the GDP of some developing countries can grow more than 10 per cent annually, most industrialized nations have an annual growth of roughly two or three per cent.

Recession is the fall of GDP. According to the CIA World Factbook, the West Bank and Gaza Strip have the biggest recessions, with GDP plummeting eight per cent annually.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UVic makes the grade, once again

Kat Eschner

Other Canadian universities may have led the pack in specific areas, but when Maclean's magazine and the Globe and Mail released their 2008-2009 university rankings, UVic's consistently good grades pushed it to the top.

However, university officials are cautioning that such rankings are very broad.

While UVic sat mostly in the B range of the Globe rankings, it shared the first-place comprehensive university trophy with Simon Fraser University in Maclean's rankings.

However, Director of Institutional Planning and Analysis Tony Eder said that though the university pays attention to these ratings, they use other performance indicators as the primary guide for decision-making.

The Globe rankings are split into three categories, based on university size. UVic sits in the middle category with 12,500-25,000 students. The actual rankings are based on a student satisfaction survey of over 100 questions.

The survey was outsourced to Strategic Counsel, a market research company that runs StudentAwards.com, a scholarship website. This year, the survey had about 43,400 respondents and it was their results that dictated the grades given to each institution.

UVic received an A grade for "Campus Atmosphere," but a C+ for "Campus Pubs and Bars," as well as B- grades for "Student Residences" and "Food Services."

UVic once again topped the Maclean's ranking in the comprehensive university category — this time sharing the top spot with SFU.

The magazine defines comprehensive universities as those that "have a significant amount of research activity and a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including professional degrees." This category also includes SFU, York and Carleton.

The degree of information covered by the Maclean's ranking is a testament to the complexity of universities: it uses weighted performance measures that range from student awards to library expenses and acquisitions.

Still, Eder thinks the ranking is too simplified.

"What Maclean's does is they take that information and they create a ranking, because they want to [say] 'well, this is the best university this year'," Eder said. "We're very big places that do all kinds of activities ... and they try to distill all of that down into a single ranking. That's problematic, in our view."

UVic was in the top-five of all 13 indicator categories, although it wasn't first in any of them. SFU held first place in four categories, but received indifferent scholarship and library rankings.

UVic President David Turpin said ranking results affect university policy by forcing the institution to ask questions about its current practices.

However, he emphasized that the information provided by surveys used in the Maclean's ranking, such as the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), is also used by the university. Turpin said UVic's internal survey process was of primary practical use.

"Those are the surveys that I think provide us with the best information to improve what we do here at the UVic," Turpin said. "We tend to consistently do well in rankings in Maclean's and the Globe, and it really is a testament to the outstanding people here at the University of Victoria."

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

The Globe and Mail gave UVic an A for Campus Atmosphere, higher than the university's overall grade of A-.

THE RESULTS

Here's a breakdown of how UVic scored in the specific categories used to determine a university's spot in the Globe and Mail and MacLean's rankings:

GLOBE RESULTS:

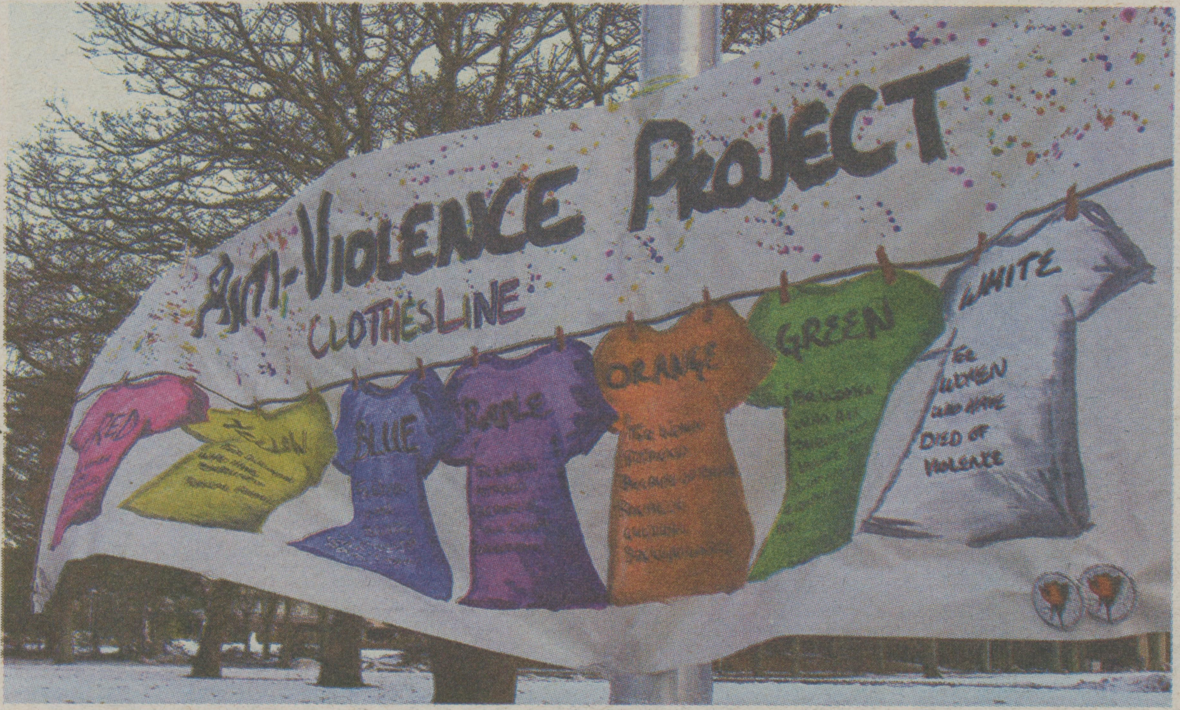
A: Campus Atmosphere
A-: Libraries, Quality of Education, Most Satisfied Students
B+: Class Size, Quality of Teaching, Recreation and Athletics, Campus Technology, Extra Curricular Activities, Academic Reputation
B: Building and Facilities, Ease of Course Registration, Student/Faculty Interaction, Course Availability
B-: Food Services, Student Residences
C+: Campus Pubs and Bars

MACLEAN'S RESULTS:

(Note: the number indicates where among other universities in its category UVic ranked in each indicator)

5	Student Awards
4	Student/Faculty Ratio
3	Awards per Full-time Faculty
5	Social Sciences & Humanities Grants
2	Medical/Science Grants
2	Total Research Dollars
4	Operating Budget
3	Scholarships & Bursaries (% of budget)
5	Student Services (% of budget)
(no rating)	Library
3	Expenses
5	Acquisitions
2	Holdings per student
4	Reputational survey

Remembering, then ending violence against women



PROVIDED PHOTO

The AVP clothesline will fly Dec. 3 as a visual representation of the impact of violence against women.

Elizabeth Morrison

A young man entered an engineering classroom at the University of Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique on Dec. 6, 1989, and yelled that feminists had ruined his life.

He ordered the female students to one side of the room. Then, he opened fire.

Six of the women in the room were killed.

He continued his rampage throughout the building, killing a total of 14 women before using the gun to kill himself.

Now, this event is remembered at campuses across Canada, including UVic.

"Today, recognizing this event represents an opportunity for us to reflect on the widespread and systemic violence against women in our society," said Robin Tosczac from the Anti-Violence Project (AVP).

"It is also an opportunity to consider how we can implement concrete actions to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence."

This year, students, staff and faculty will gather on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 11:30 a.m. outside the McPherson Library for the annual UVic memorial event featuring music and speakers. All classes and exams will be cancelled 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to allow everyone to attend.

Speakers will include Anissa Agah St. Pierre discussing gender and engineering, members of AVP, Steve Parr commenting on masculinity and gender-based violence and Rose Henry outlining her perspective on how gender-based violence effects marginalized women.

The Philomela Women's choir will also be performing, and the AVP clothesline will be set up to provide a visual representation of the impact of violence against women.

"While the memorial started with remembering these 14 women, today it reminds us to examine and question widespread violence against people from all genders and backgrounds," said Sinan Soykut, another member of AVP.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the memorial on Dec. 3, and to come together in solidarity to name everyday violence against women as something that should and can be prevented.

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Trans victims honoured with solidarity

Danielle Pope

Rain and wind pelted Centennial Square on Nov. 20, but a crowd of about 75 people held candles and stood fast to honour trans gendered people lost to violence and hatred around the world.

The Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR), put on in Victoria by TransAction, a community-based activist group, recognizes all victims of transphobic hatred. The event, now international, began in San Francisco in 1999, in remembrance of Rita Hester, a transgendered person whose murder has yet to be solved.

This is the second year the event has been hosted in Victoria.

Craig Ashbourne, a speaker at the event, thanked all those in attendance and noted that it took a lot of courage for everyone to come out in such furious weather.

"We want to remind everyone that this is more than just a single day," Ashbourne said. "This is an emotional event for many."

TransAction, a group that formed this past September as an offshoot from the former UVic group, Trans-Alliance, set up TDOR in collaboration with the Women's Centre, the Pride Collective and the Anti-Violence Project.

This year, TransAction hosted a week-long event session that ranged from classes in gender issues to film screenings and all-body wrestling events.

During Thursday's candlelight vigil, people relentlessly struggled against gusty winds to keep flames lit while the names and stories of the dead were read aloud. But a small collection of speakers rallied the audience and led people in remembering not only those lost, but the deep issues surrounding those losses as well.

"Everyone who's ever witnessed homophobia, put your fist in the air," called out Mik (Anna) Turje, to an entire crowd raising their fists. When Turje called the same for those who have or know someone who has experienced hatred, racism, or gender-based oppression, a crowd of rain-soaked hands punched at the air.

Many of Thursday's speakers evoked tears, whoops and hollers from the crowd, challenging listeners to break away from hetero-normality and educate themselves.

"We are one, and we are many," read speaker TJ Naven. "We are changing history. Will you be an ally and help us, or will we march on without you?"

Ryan "Tristin" Chapman, another speaker, talked of the deep-set issues many trans people are faced with every day.

"When I started to redefine myself as neither boy nor girl, I began to be aware of the lack of room," he said. "People are more comfortable with a permanent label. The theme is 'label or be labeled.'"

Chapman said that since changing his preference for labels, he's become aware of the intolerance around the issue.

"We shouldn't have to be thankful for people respecting our identity. Respect is a right, not a privilege," he said. "We need to fight for space for each other at work, at home and in our minds."

Auden Cody Neuman, a member of TransAction, and one of the TDOR organizers, was pleased with Thursday's turnout — especially considering the flash storm.

"It was inspiring to see so many people from both the university and the broader Victoria community showing up to brave the elements and be a part of TDOR," Neuman said.

Unfortunately, the storm did significantly diminish the number of people on the streets, said Neuman, which meant the gathering was not as broadly visible as they'd hoped. That said, he believes there has been a good feeling going around among members of TransAction since Thursday. He said that any event that raises awareness about the violence and discrimination marginalized groups face is beneficial.

"The more people recognize the issues that transgendered people face, the more likely they are to stand in solidarity with us and help us challenge the forces which oppress us," Neuman said.

Yet TDOR isn't only about trans issues, maintains Neuman, who feels that the surrounding issues aren't talked about enough.

"The violence that many of the 35 people killed in the past year faced was predicated by other factors than simply their gender identity," he said. "Misogyny plays a huge part, in that a large percentage of those killed were presenting as women or as feminine."

Neuman said racism, homophobia, classism and violence against sex trade workers are also issues.

TRISHA GIENI PHOTO

Mik (Anna) Turje hails the TDOR crowd to support gender acceptance.

Christel Bodenbender, a UVic student and proud member of the UVic Pride Collective, said while this was her first time attending TDOR, she was pleased, despite the weather, that she could make this one. For Bodenbender, the day holds a special sensitivity.

"I know a lot of trans people and had a friend who committed suicide in April of 2005," she said of Alexandria "Alex" Tucker. "That was a really sad moment in the trans community in Victoria. [Alex] was always someone you could go to and confess your problems to. But she didn't go to anyone. As a trans person, she was harassed. She was a great person."

Bodenbender believes most of the people who come to TDOR already have a lot of awareness, but thinks the effort is important to honour those lost.

"For most of the people here it's like preaching to the choir," she said. "Sure, it raises awareness when covered by the media — but most people don't have a clue."

Rachel Bergen, another member of Pride, said that in many ways trans people are the most vulnerable of the queer community, and deserve extra support.

"Maybe next year we'll be big enough that the Times Colonist will come," Bergen said. "The more people who hear about it, the more people can make a difference."

Bodenbender hopes the event will generate more attention in coming years, but believes that some things have to start out small.

"Pride started off small," she said. "Things have to start somewhere. The trans community in Victoria is small [comparatively], so it makes sense."

Neuman also hopes that future rallies will see a greater emphasis put on the other levels of oppression that contribute to the deaths of trans people. He would like to see the group bring in speakers from other cities, perhaps even trans writers, academics, filmmakers or activists dedicating their work to challenging discrimination against trans people.

"In my life, violence against individuals on the basis of the social categories they occupy or are perceived to occupy is not a hypothetical consideration," Neuman said. "It's a lived reality that myself and the ones I love deal with.

This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

Nov. 24, 1966 – UVic's Alma Mater Society pledged to help fundraising efforts to rebuild Victoria's Social Education Centre after it was destroyed by vandalism. Damages were partly covered by insurance, but hundreds of dollars were still needed to begin reconstruction of the Centre. Plans to reopen the building in a dowtown location as a coffee house, education centre and meeting place for action and discussion were being put together so that the work of youth social action committees could resume as quickly as possible. Project organizer Lynn Curtis said that the vandalism demonstrated the problems faced by area youth and that more needed to be done to engage them.

Nov. 25, 1982 – According to Political Science Course Union president Brian Stevenson, his union and others like it were instrumental in postponing a referendum on the question of whether or not to join the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) until February 1983. Stevenson maintained that the rushed time line for the CFS referendum didn't allow for proper debate on the matter and an opportunity for students to be educated on the pros and cons of CFS membership. The original referendum would have taken place during a hectic exam and assignment season for students.

Nov. 26, 1998 – *The Lesbian, Gay* and Bisexual Alliance (LGBA) of UVic began angling to become a collective in an effort to entice more students to join. Formerly, the LBGA was governed by a board of directors that took input from its 40-odd members. Under its new configuration, the LBGA's weekly and bi-weekly meetings would allow all members to hold decision power within the group. Outreach committee member Andrea Smith said the move would give everyone more responsibility and combat communication problems.

-Cody Willett

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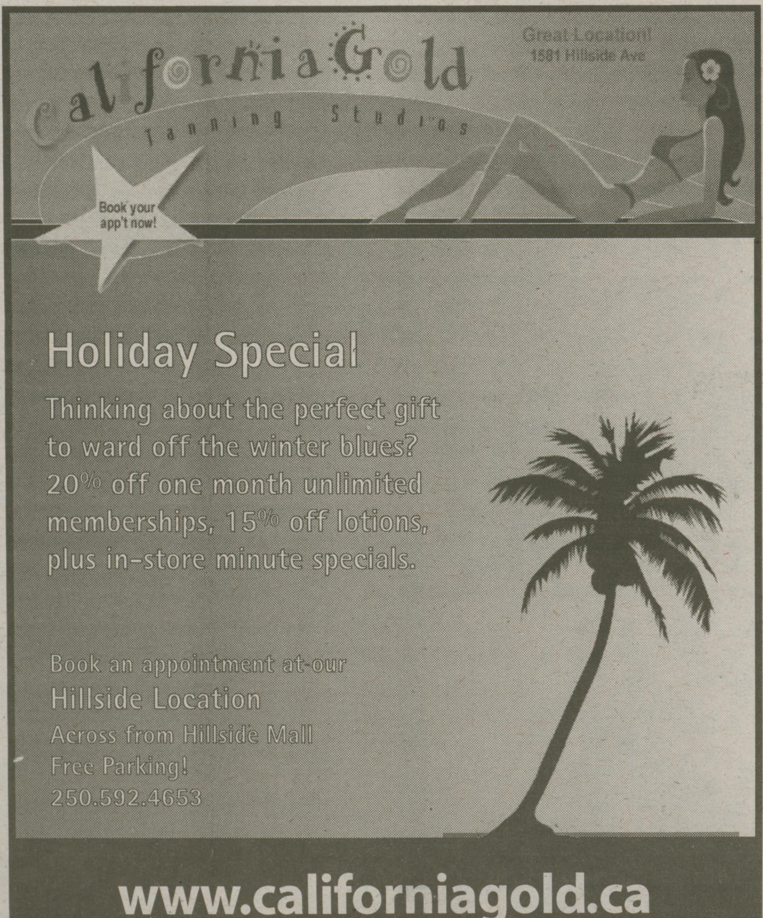

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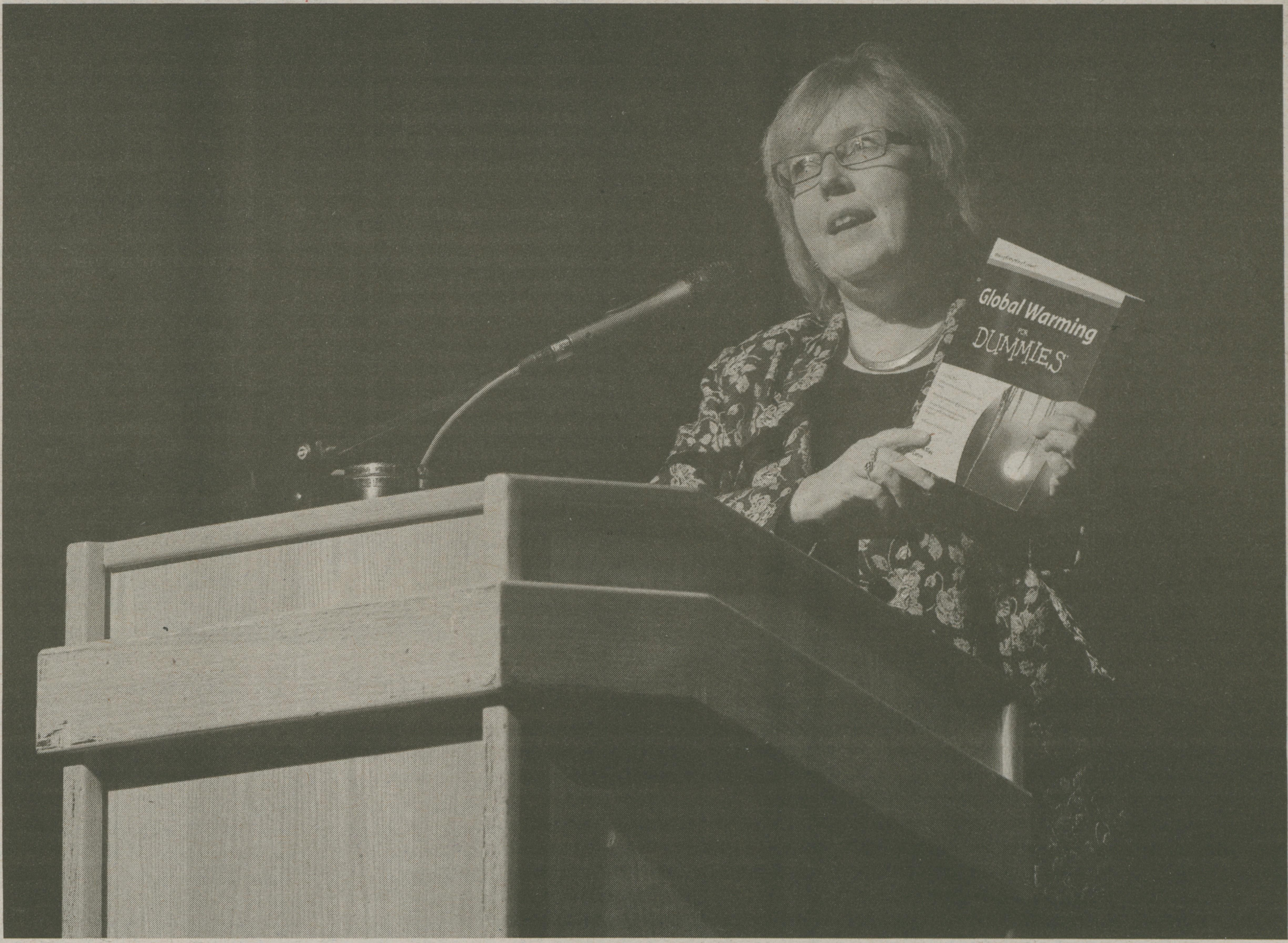
May launches book with talk in Victoria

Cody Willett



SANDRA MINARIK PHOTO

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May spoke at Oak Bay High School on Nov. 22 to promote her new book, *Global Warming for Dummies*.

Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, spoke to more than 100 people at Oak Bay High School on Nov. 23, while in Victoria to promote her latest book, *Global Warming for Dummies.*

After being introduced by several leading figures in the Green Party, May said that the book was dedicated to her grandkids — she hopes that by the time they can read it, the prognosis for Earth's future climate will be different.

The talk, titled "Global Warming for Dummies... and Geniuses" began with May congratulating Greens everywhere for increasing their party's vote in the 2008 federal election by 270,000, while the Conservative vote fell by 170,000. May also said she was proud that the one million votes earned by her party represented 20 per cent of the total number of votes the governing Conservatives received.

"In terms of how Canadians vote, the majority of Canadians voted for parties that support action on climate change. So our voting patterns support where our public opinions polls are," said May, before calling Canada's "first past the post" electoral system "perverse."

The rest of May's talk focused squarely on the issue of climate change and the dangers of not taking its threat seriously. She said that unless greenhouse gas emissions increases peak in 2015 and humans commit to decreasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels to 80 per cent below the 1990 levels by 2050, nothing humans could do would stop the runaway climate change.

"The atmosphere is not the least bit interested in negotiating with humanity," she said. "[It] doesn't turn on a dime."

Later, during an interview with the Martlet, May spoke about the significance of her book in respect to the multitudes of other books currently in print about climate change.

"[Canadians] don't necessarily feel that they've got all the answers and all the science," May said. "[The book] helps people with arguments to deal with the people they run into everyday who don't understand the issue and say foolish things, such as 'well, it's really all a controversy or it's really all sunspots.'"

May highlighted the book's "for dummies" approach, stating that its goal is to make the science, the policy and "the tools we need to fix the problem" straight-forward and easy to understand.

May admitted that it was tricky to avoid having this be seen as trivializing the subject when compared to books like Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth.*

She said that Gore's effort was "beautifully produced," but that her book is "easier for the average person to pick up, mark it up here and there, [and use] as a reference" because its chapters stand alone and it can be picked up and read from any point.

"[*Global Warming for Dummies*] focuses a lot on the solutions: what you can do around your own home, what's happening around the world," said May. "It really gets into the detail of how international negotiations work. So there's a lot more nitty-gritty information beyond the science."

May credits her co-author, young B.C. climate activist Zöe Caron, with making it possible to overcome the difficulty of writing a readable book on such a complex scientific subject while serving as Leader of the Green Party.

May said that the biggest challenge she and Caron faced in writing the book was not scaring the reader.

"[The book has] got some very frightening information, but it tries to deliver it in a way that won't terrify people past the point where they feel they can do something about it," May said. "The chances of avoiding global catastrophe are at this point not probabilities; they're possibilities and we have to seize them."

May says that when information is sobering and frightening she thinks it's good to put it in a package that emphasizes the positive and the hopeful and keeps people motivated to take action.

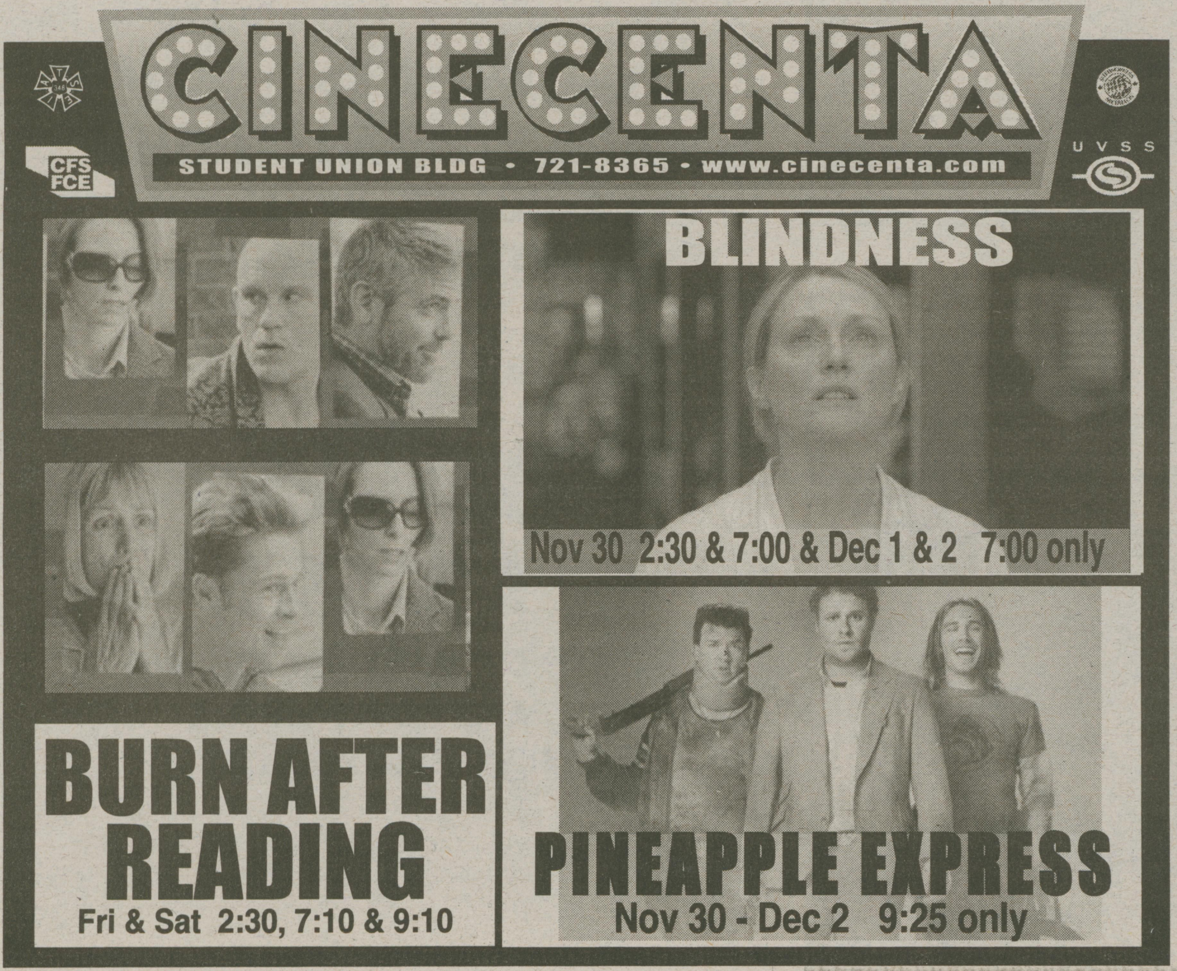
"People always ask me where I found time to write books or where I write books. These days I write books on trains," said May, referring to how she pulled her share of the task off.

May said that she'd hoped to release the book before the last election, but that it wasn't entirely intended for a Canadian audience anyway.

The book is slated for international distribution and translation into several languages.

Still, May admitted that it would have been nice to be able to refer people to the book during the campaign.

"Stephen Harper did cheat in the debates," May said. "He brought in notes but he wasn't allowed to, so I couldn't have brought in the book [for him]."



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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25, 2008

1. MANHATTAN LOVE SUICIDES
   Burnt Out Landscapes (Magic Marker))
2. YXIMALLOO
   Un-Pop (ESP-Disk)
3. BALACADE †
   Sundown Morning (Old Life)
4. ISOBEL CAMPBELL & MARK LANEGAN
   Sunday At Devil Dirt (Fontana)
5. PAST LIVES
   Strange Symmetry (Suicide Squeeze)
6. ANNI ROSSI
   Afton (4AD)
7. SPLINTERS
   EP (Self-Released)
8. AIDS WOLF *
   Cities of Glass (Skin Graft)
9. NAIL SALON †
   Rad City [7-Eleven] (Self-Released)
10. LAURA SMITH †
   Sea of Stars (Self-Released)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Two congressmen show UVic that working together never gets old.

Congressmen hope to heal partisan wounds

Will Johnson

It's not often that a Republican from Florida and a Democrat from California join forces, but for two days at UVic former American congressmen Dan Miller and Jerry Patterson transcended their differences in party and era to promote a single agenda.

"It's funny, because the students keep trying to make us disagree," said Patterson with a laugh. However, the two men agree on many issues and have worked together three times in the past.

As part of the Congress to Campus program, they are collaborating to educate youth about the political process.

"About 12 years ago we realized ... here we are, with our gray hair, and the future isn't dependent on us anymore ... it belongs to the youth," said Patterson, who served in congress from 1975 to 1985. "We want to show them how you can make a difference."

Patterson said that when the program first started, he could see that youth had lost faith in the system and were reluctant to support either political party.

"They seemed to think the system was broke," he said. Patterson acknowledges a huge shift with the recent election of Barack Obama, and thinks that youth participation in politics is about to change.

Both Miller and Patterson, who spoke to classes on Thursday and Friday, have been frustrated with the bitter in-fighting between parties. They hope that Obama will bring about the change he's been advocating for.

Both said they initially preferred Hilary Clinton, but now feel optimistic about Obama's presidency.

Optimism doesn't mean Miller, a congressman from 1993 to 2003, won't question Obama's ability to step up to the plate.

"He's coming into tough times ... Obama has a very short resume. He's only been in congress for four years, and he's been running for president for two of those," he said. "We're hopeful, but we're concerned."

However, Patterson feels that the current crises will define Obama's presidency.

"Roosevelt was elected with some major crises, and that's what made him great ... I'm very hopeful that Obama could be a New Deal FDR president," he said.

When asked about the major concerns in the coming years, Patterson said "the economy, the economy, the economy."

Although they acknowledged the war in Afghanistan, NAFTA and border security as hot-button topics, both feel that it is indeed the economy that overshadows all other issues.

"Obama can't just snap his fingers and tell congress what he wants," said Miller.

Patterson agrees that change will be difficult and said that he believes Obama will have to speak over the heads of congress, directly to the American people.

"He's the perfect president to do that. Roosevelt did it with his fireside chats, and they made a huge difference. I think Obama has the charisma and the vision to make things happen," he said.

Miller and Patterson were impressed with the questions they fielded from UVic students and the understanding they demonstrated of American politics.

"Their knowledge of the issues was immense," said Patterson.

"People have been pretty nice to a Republican," said Miller with a smile. He said he's experienced his fair share of hostility, particularly a couple years ago from some anti-war demonstrators. "But the war isn't on the radar anymore. It's all the economy."

Between visiting classes and speaking at Parliament, Miller and Patterson have been exploring Victoria and enjoying Island life.

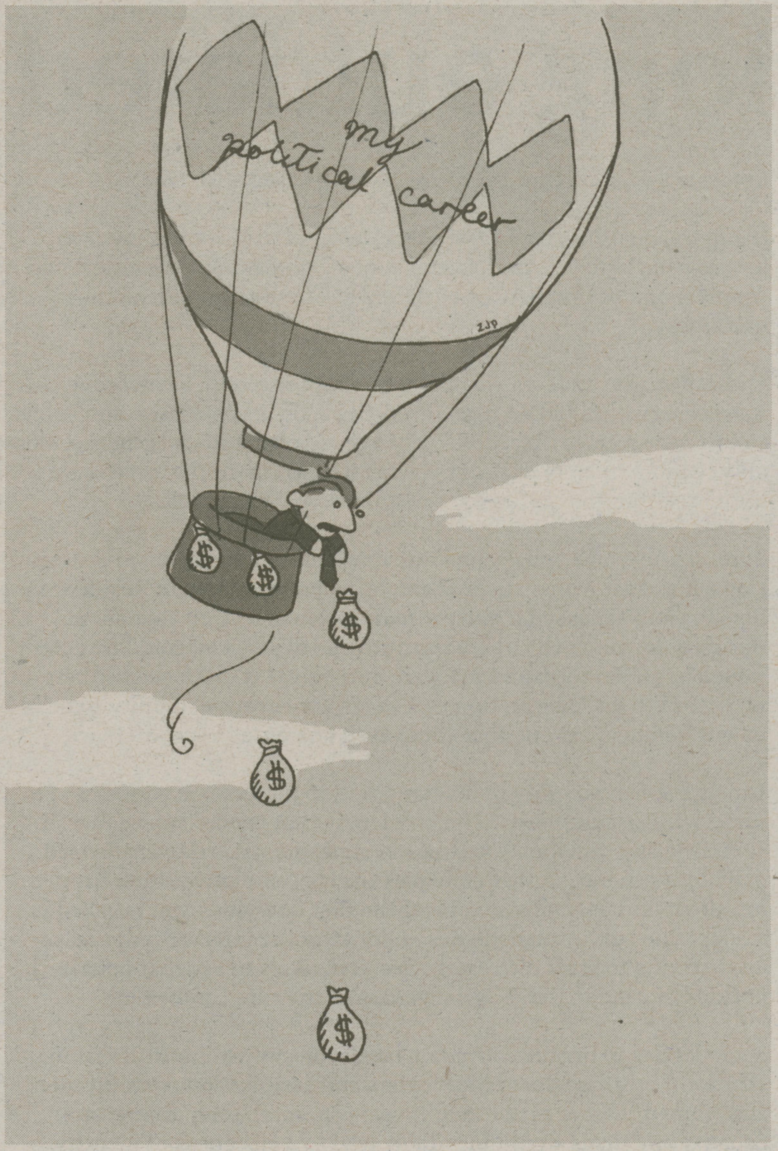
"I've been to a lot of college campuses, and this one really sticks out," said Miller, who flew in from a visit to the University of Toronto.

"It's just beautiful," said Patterson. "I like the rabbits."

Pay cuts for politicians

Municipal leaders propose savings go to social issues

Doug Hamilton-Evans



JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Before this month's municipal election, 10 council candidates from five municipalities proposed a plan to cut politician's stipends by five to 10 per cent to go toward homelessness and affordable housing, if elected. Only one was voted in.

In Victoria alone, the plan could have raised almost $50,000 in one year.

The initiative began with Esquimalt criminal lawyer Tom Morino and former executive assistant at the B.C. legislature, Robert Allington, but quickly spread to Steve Hurdle, a Langford candidate who involved the Langford candidates' group, including Michael Mortimer, Herman Surkis and Vern Trew.

By the time of the election, candidates from Metchosin, Victoria, Central Saanich, Langford and Esquimalt were involved in the plan, including Leslie Zinger from Metchosin, Sue Stroud from Central Saanich and the only candidate to win a seat on a council, Alison Gaul of Esquimalt.

Gaul is a child life specialist who works with the Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children. She received 1,913 votes on her first attempt at office, only 26 fewer than Don Linge, the candidate who received the most votes.

Gaul has yet to have a chance to make a motion to propose the pay cut because Esquimalt council does not take office until Dec. 8 and the first chance to make a motion is in January — but she does always donate part of her income to charity. Gaul views the pay cut as a small gesture in comparison to the depth of the problem, but believes that is important.

"Five per cent isn't a giant thing. I don't even know how much we make in a year," Gaul said. "It's more symbolic — it's tough for everyone right now; why shouldn't politicians tighten their belt?"

Morino believes that to do something about important social issues, no matter the size of the action, is simply the right thing to do.

"While $50,000 may only provide homes for two or three people, it's important to have candidates from five Capital Regional District (CRD) ridings make a statement that we recognize that homelessness and affordable housing is an important problem and a regional issue," Morino said.

Morino admits that the proposal was also made to draw attention to the issue of homelessness and affordable housing.

"Honestly, it was partly intended to embarrass senior level [provincial] government and others to take action. If we are prepared to take a cut in pay to address what we see as a serious problem that senior government is not addressing with the same emotion and compassion as we are, they may be embarrassed into doing something," Morino said.

Morino knows that many people find municipal politics boring and wanted to show that it can be an arena to discuss issues bigger than zoning bylaws.

"I wanted to show that there's something we can all do," he said.

Allington believes that the most important aspect of the proposal was that it involved several municipalities and supports an integrated approach to homelessness and other social issues, involving the police, the courts, social workers, the attorney general and care givers.

"To me, the real solution to homelessness is a solution that crosses regional, provincial and federal boundaries," Allington said. "You have to reach out beyond your own community if you want to solve these problems."

Because only one advocate for the proposal was elected, Langford bike shop owner Steve Hurdle, who finished seventh out of the competition that fought for six seats, doesn't think the idea will fade away.

"I think the issue could still be addressed in the court of public opinion," Hurdle said. "If it's something that politicians perceive the public is asking from them, they may be receptive."

Hurdle would like to see the plan go farther than the CRD.

"I would like to see it spread province-wide," he said. "Any one politician might not raise that much money, but thousands of politicians across the province? That would be more significant."

Hurdle reminds voters that with a provincial election on the horizon and another municipal election in three years, there are chances in the near future for a similar initiative to take root if politicians believe that voters are interested.

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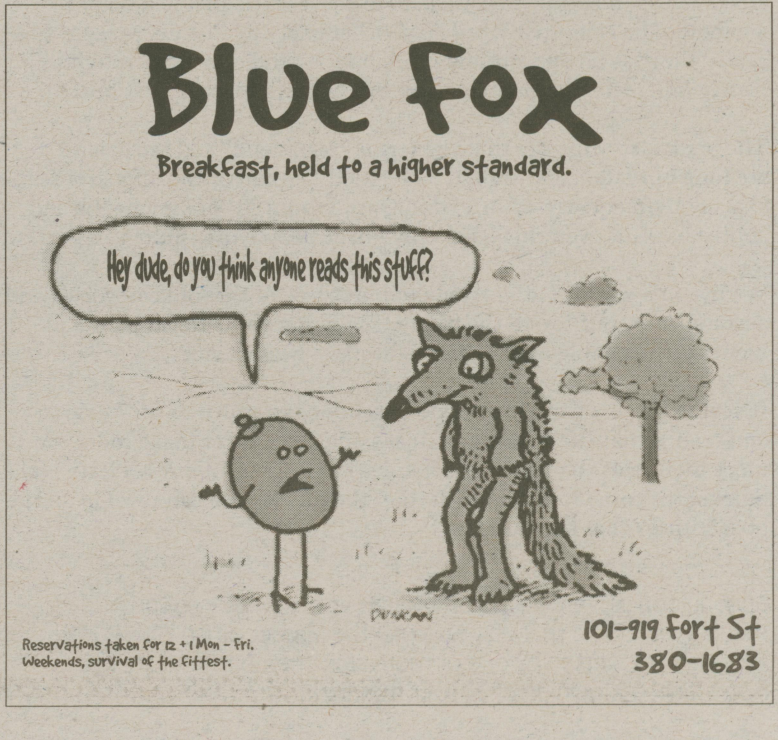
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EDITORIAL

Gender labels long outdated

Every day we glide through life on skids greased with labels.

Daughter, husband, barista, student, lefty, whitey, communist, gay, Jew, coach, pianist, author, friend – man, woman. But the oldest and simplest distinction between genders has outlived rigidity, if not usefulness.

Those of us who can't self-identify with what the gender-label society stamped us with at birth struggle every day under its oppressive limitations. From a theoretical to a practical level, issues revolving around gender conformity confront us every day. And whether it's identifying the bathroom you use, or selecting the clothes you wear, "he vs. she" plays a role.

Sure, skinny jeans and eyeliner are now androgynous shopping selections, but what happens, for example, when you apply to Residence housing and are asked if you are male or female? And what about during a doctor's visit where the outcome of an exam could be determined based on the parts you were born with? It often seems there's no option to duck a question that determines your eligibility to be in an environment, or one that could even guarantee your safety.

Labels exist to simplify understandings, to predict behaviours and to underwrite assumptions. The problem is that gender labels, like all sorts of other previously sacrosanct concepts, are being challenged daily by a generation that embraces the contemplative shifts happening all around us. Odds are one of the first questions you're asked in a telephone survey pigeonholes an identity the interviewer is ceaselessly trying to stuff into categories. But who's to say that polarized notions of gender aren't as dangerous as they are conforming?

Society tries to organize separate labels, but we're only still making strides in breaking down the barriers and assumptions that pit men and women against each other. It seems natural, then, that greater equality among us would inevitably lead to a closeness of identity.

More than closeness, we've begun to blur our differences. Public and private, work and play, man and woman. Nothing in our modern society is mutually exclusive anymore, so why should labels be? It seems pointless drawing a line in the sand and forcing each other to pick a side — especially when sides are becoming so arbitrary. And what about when you actually can't pick?

Being a "he" at birth doesn't mean you're going to like sports, hand tools and standing up to pee. Alternately, today "shes" of the world can love these things without anyone's eyebrows being raised. When it comes to who gets to wear the pants (or the skirts), anything goes.

Yet while variations of sexuality have worked their ways into the normality of "choice," it's still hard for people to wrap their heads around variations of gender: a "he" not wanting a penis, or a "she" who's uncomfortable with breasts. Society assumes we accept ourselves and each other on the basis of what we see, but these assumptions so often fall flat. It doesn't matter if everyone around you thinks you're beautiful if you feel fat enough to become bulimic. What matters is the identity you feel in your core. Since ancient times, that identity has been forced inside external norms and structures.

In fact, ever since Plato outlined perfect "forms" and Aristotle dissected everything into categories, society has been rooted in examining distinctions and putting things in boxes. But while that served a civilization just starting out, we're two and a half millennia beyond that. If we're sophisticated enough to know that atoms aren't indivisible, then it's time to shelve the boy are boys and girls are girls notion.

In the case of atoms, we came up with new names for the newly-understood matter. It seems time, then, to readjust labels that just don't fit anymore. The *Nonsexist Word Finder Dictionary* by Rosalie Maggio suggests "they" as an appropriate pronoun for gender-neutral references. It may irk stuffy old grammarians, but perhaps it's our best option.

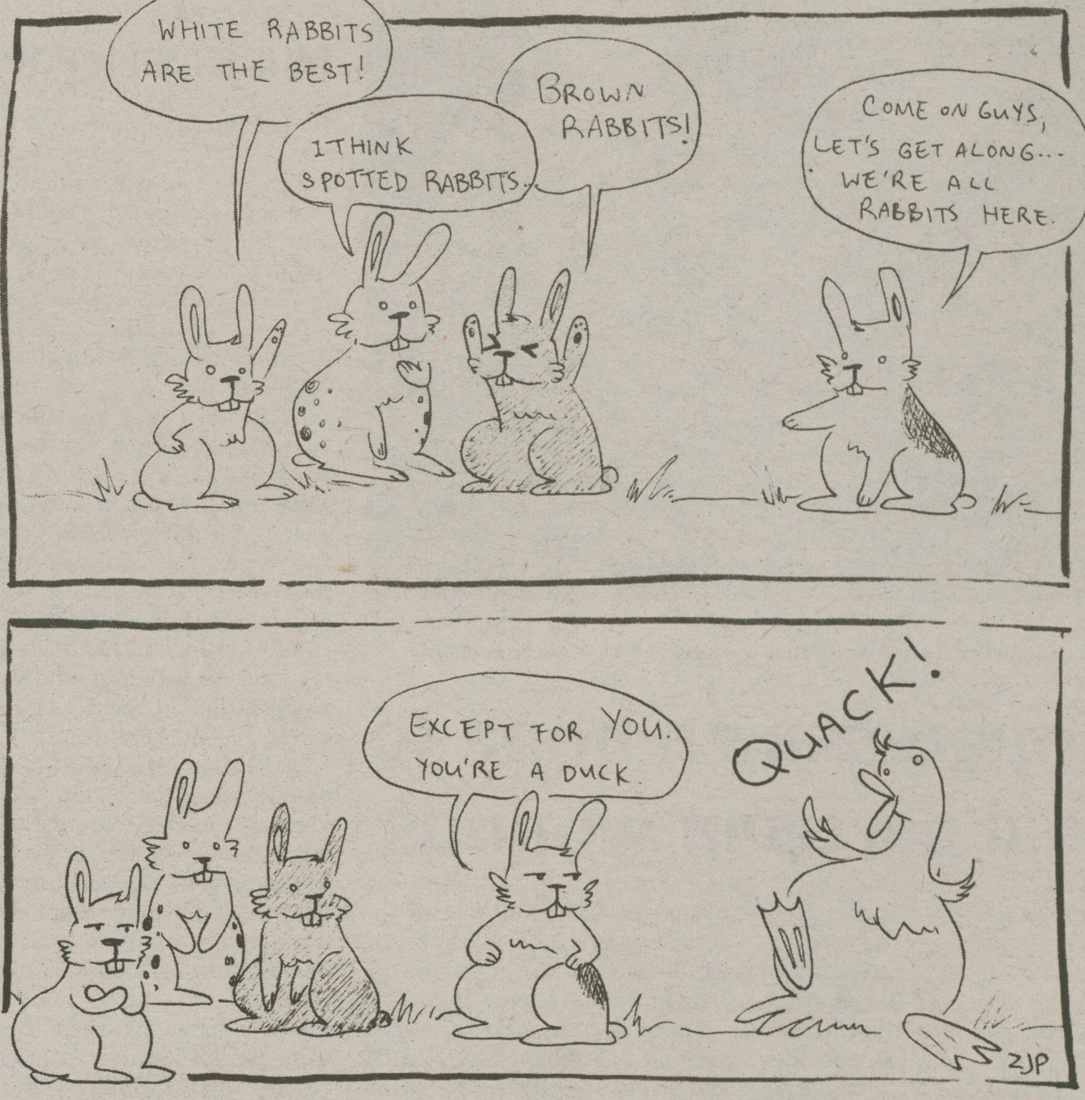
The book also suggests that the terms "boyfriend" and "girlfriend" are long outdated, and should be retitled "person of the opposite sex sharing living quarters," or POSSLQ (pronounced "posselcue") when applicable. But even this label only boxes people into more categories.

We live in a world that is trying to burst free of age-old categories and assumptions, but for all the heady new dimensions to thought and identity, the people leading the fight pay a heavy price.

It seems like it's time to check our gender assumptions at the door and realize that life is just one unceasing struggle to make room for more identities than what fits inside the confines of our society — the quicker we come to terms with that, the quicker we can revel in all the possibilities that surround us.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 2:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

RABBITS DIVERSITY WORKSHOP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QUACK!
ZJP

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Kayak club not a fraternity

Let me start off with expressing my disappointment with the article on the UVIC Whitewater Kayak club.

The writer has never been out to a pool session. He has never been on a weekend river trip with us. Nor has he ever gone out after the meetings with us. He has no experience with the club and his writing is based on second-hand information.

When we go out after the pool session, it is not a club function but a continuation of social activities beyond the club's scope.

First and foremost, instructors and members are friends. In a sport with the potential for dangerous situations; trust in one's fellow members is of paramount importance.

I've gone over 20 ft. waterfalls (lower Englishman River falls) and down large boulder-garden creeks. I have done this safely and with complete confidence in the abilities of those around me.

This confidence is a result of the close bonds that the club promotes. While on non-club trips I have faced dangerous situations and survived. The rescue and safety skills of my fellow paddlers are the direct result of club training.

It is a testament to the club's safety record that the most serious injury received on a club trip was a cut requiring 2 stitches.

This article was only trying to make a controversy where there is none.

Where does the article say that kayaking has built our trust in each other? Forgotten is the fact that we are always taking care of our most inexperienced members first, making sure that they are safe and having a good time?

To Grady Mitchell: I invite you come out on one of our trips. We'll show you the true kayak club experience.

I am formally requesting an apology and a retraction from The Martlet and Mr. Mitchell.

Jarid McKenzie
Kayak Club Financial Officer
UVic Student

Defending Tavis Dodds

Re: News item on Tavis Dodds, recent Victoria council candidate, who "left no surface untagged" during the campaign (Martlet, Nov. 20, page 3.)

Dodds was trying to draw attention to the reality that without personal wealth or the financial backing of powerful organizations, a candidate's voice will not likely be heard.

To create a system of equal opportunity, we would need public financing of municipal campaigns, whereby if a candidate could collect a certain number of signatures public campaign funds would be available.

It's also inaccurate to say council candidate Joseph Boutilier ran a "$0 campaign," and Boutilier never suggested that. The writer seems to have garbled his call for $0 donations (donating your time rather than money.)

As an earlier Martlet article correctly stated, Boutilier's campaign was "self-financed" — his family paid for it.

In addition, I found it ironic that despite complaining about Tavis Dodds's "scribbled name all over the city," the Martlet couldn't get it right, referring to him as Travis Dodd (sic.) As Benjamin Disraeli once said, "This shows how much easier it is to be critical than to be correct."

David J. A. Foster
UVic Student

Editorial on frats misinformed

I would like to note a few ironies and outright falsities in the recent Martlet editorial, "Frats don't jive at UVic."

First, while attempting to denounce the Hollywood fraternity paragon, the writer spews vitriol associating fraternities with hazing, misogyny, elitism and more — exactly the kind of images highlighted in such fiction.

How circularly unclever.

Second, arguing that UVic is a party school, the writer myopically cites UVic's reputation. The hard truth is that UVic does not place on the rankings (yes, they exist) of Canada's top party schools.

Our campus is "curiously devoid of the dilapidated party houses and raucous keg parties" seen at other schools not because of some lack of fraternal liberty but because 1) few students live near campus due to inflated housing prices in UVic's vicinity and 2) Victoria police are infamous for cracking down on the slightest negligence and 3) Saanich bylaws are notorious for being non-inclusive of students.

Isn't it ironic that a writer parading equal rights just happens to forget to lambaste or even mention that elusive group of girls called a "sorority"?

Moreover, allowing exclusive "clubs" does not in theory contradict UVic's inclusivity policies, especially if these clubs are informal and not officially associated with the university.

Third, the idea of the frat/sorority is not "destined to be at odds with the UVic populace." Take a poll, and your presumptions might be shown to be unfounded.

Taylor Termes
UVic student

Happy? Sad?
Enraged? Engaged?
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WAR OF WORDS

Should a child pornographer keep his job?

Will Johnson and Kim Magi

Recently, Cambridge University decided to allow one its professors, Dr. Nicholas Hammond, to return to his job after he admitted to possessing, making and distributing child pornography.

Police discovered over 1500 images of child pornography at his Cambridge University-owned home.

Hammond received a suspended sentence and is currently on special leave from his position at the university. Cambridge University's Vice Chancellor Alison Richard is allowing him to return to work next April.

This decision has sparked international outrage, and many feel like allowing Hammond to keep his job is an insult to victims of sexual abuse everywhere.

Should Hammond be fired? Or should he be allowed to continue as a professor?

Will Johnson: This summer, I worked in an office with a convicted child molester. For the first two months of my job I had no idea about his history and thought he seemed like a pleasant, funny and approachable guy.

Later, when I learned about his convictions and jail time, I was horrified. My first instinct was anger, like I'd been tricked. I wanted to avoid this guy, be mean to him, to steer clear.

But what would that have accomplished?

The fact of the that matter is, no matter how reprehensible their crimes, child molesters are still people. They deserve a right to make a living. If this man wasn't working at my office, where would he work? Should the government support him on welfare?

> "No matter how reprehensible their crime, child molesters are still people."
>
> -Will Johnson

Working and contributing to the economy is part of him re-paying his debt to society.

It is not Cambridge University's job to punish Hammond for his wrong-doings. That job remains in the hands of the police and the courts. Hammond should be allowed to keep his job, just like everyone else.

Kim Magi: Sure, child molesters are people, and so are mass murderers. The point is, people like these made a life choice, and now they should pay for it — especially if they're a university professor, which is a position of prestige.

If I found out one of my professors had made and distributed child pornography, I would be furious.

A university professor is someone you're supposed to be able to trust and respect,

I agree that this man deserves to make a living, but not in his current occupation.

With such a highly-publicized case, Cambridge University is showing the public that they aren't taking his charge seriously, and that it's okay to produce, distribute and possess child pornography, because you'll keep your job if and when you get caught.

Will Johnson: The proper course of action should not be determined by publicity.

If no one knew this was happening, and this wasn't a huge media circus, what would be the right thing to do? What would be the wrong thing?

Cambridge shouldn't have to make a decision based on how the general populace will respond. They should do what they feel to be morally right.

It would be one thing if Hammond was an elementary school teacher, but he isn't.

He isn't asking to work with children, and his job has absolutely nothing to do with sexual morality. Instead, he is a highly educated and well-respected teacher at one of the most famous universities in the world.

Should all of his achievements and expertise be thrown away just because he commits a crime?

Human beings are all flawed, and some make very grave and destructive errors in judgment. We tend to hurt, maim and kill each other.

But Hammond has confessed his guilt, expressed remorse and has put himself at mercy of the justice system.

This would be a proper punishment for any other offender — why is it any different just because he's a teacher?

Kim Magi: He didn't just commit a crime. Producing child pornography is not the same as jay-walking. Cambridge is disrespecting all families that have suffered due to child abuse. By only giving Hammond a short suspension, they're acknowledging what he did, but only the minimal amount.

Public humiliation is a punishment, yes. But is it the proper one for a crime as serious as this?

> "He didn't just commit a crime. Producing child pornography is not the same as jay-walking."
>
> -Kim Magi

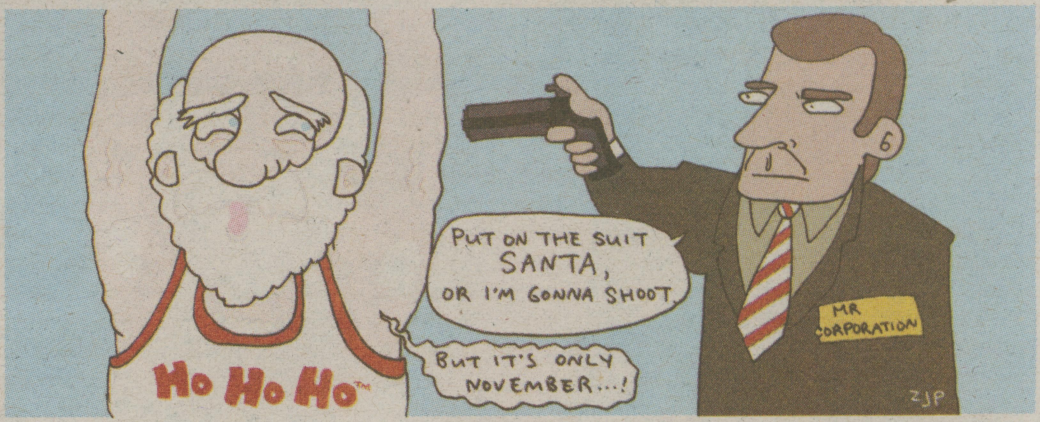
No matter what, it's different because he's a teacher. If Hammond was an employee at Wal-Mart and was convicted of the same crime, he would be fired. It's because he's upper-middle class and an employee of a prestigious university that he gets to keep his job. Well, good for him; because he's a doctor, has a commitment to education through his own learning and the teaching of others he gets a slap on the wrist.

Welcome back to your job in April, Mr. Hammond. We'll see how many students enroll in your classes.

My guess? Not many.

Dreaming of Christmas in December — not November

David Bell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JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

I'm dreaming of an unadvertised Christmas.

Of course this is a wish that Santa himself couldn't grant. Each year it seems the Christmas cheer is spread earlier into the fall season.

Here in Victoria, Santa arrived at Hillside Mall Nov. 22 (and incidentally paraded the downtown streets of Victoria that same evening). Nov. 20 saw the beginning of the Festival of Trees at the Empress Hotel; decorations were up in most stores as soon as Halloween was over with, and rumour has it that Christmas Village in the downtown Bay Centre was up as early as September.

The green light for Christmas celebration appears to come as soon as November arrives. With no other major holidays on the horizon, retailers deem it appropriate to begin their marketing schemes nearly two months before the actual holiday. Breaking it down, this means that nearly 17 per cent of the year (or even 17 per cent of our lives) are spent being subjected to festive celebration.

This is a modest statistic too, as even Halloween is beginning to crumble under the weight of its nearest holiday companion.

What's happening to our society? What is the cause of this breakdown in seasonal structure? There can only be two answers. Either consumer demand for all things Christmas has dramatically risen (which seems seriously doubtful), or having witnessed the effects of seasonal sales, retailers are pushing the boundaries of the yuletide season into unknown boundaries.

This seems to be the simple answer. It's easy to blame most problems on the "big corporations" and their evil ways — though clearly they're not all to blame.

Around this time last year, I was working at the now-vacant A&B Sound. By mid-October, a few customers were already inquiring as to where our Christmas section was. I pleaded with management to refrain from taking action, but my cries were left unheard.

"It's what the customers want," was management's repeated response, the same answer as to why I had to play Christmas carols on a never-ending loop as we neared the final days.

I beg to differ. I know way more people who gag when they hear the thousandth rendition of "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas" in any given grocery store than I know people who pleasantly smile and sing along to "Frosty the Snowman" as they peruse the aisles.

Unfortunately for us Grinches, it's these few aforementioned consumers who provide the needed excuse for retailers to string up the lights and light up the trees. It's a combination of the one per cent of people who crave Christmas and the 99 per cent of retailers who crave exploiting it.

In my mind, this exploitation is destroying the value of Christmas, leaving behind an over-marketed, over-exposed, sensationalized "holiday."

Of course I can't shout "bah humbug" to just anyone. The annual Festival of Trees that takes place in the Fairmont Empress is actually a fundraiser for B.C. Children's Hospital — so I suppose I could, in a holiday mindset, allow a benefit like this to utilize a month for charity purposes.

Any other Christmas celebration before December, however, should not be tolerated. Local radio DJ Dylan Willows joked one morning that if there was a referendum stating no Christmas decorations can be displayed until Dec 1, the voter turnout in this past municipal election would have been dramatically higher than 19 per cent.

Christmas is turning into a gimmick — nothing more than an excuse to drop prices and reap in the benefits.

When it becomes less about consumerism and more about good times with family, perhaps this time of year can be salvaged.

Unfortunately, I'm left feeling pessimistic. And one hot summer day when I walk down a main street Victoria and see Santa's smiling face, I'll know that Christmas has been lost forever.

MELODRAMATIC MUSINGS

Dodging dish duty

Will Johnson

You can tell a lot about a person by the way they wash dishes.

I lived with a girl named Kristin for nine months, and I swear she didn't do the dishes once the entire time we lived together.

"I'll do them tomorrow," was her constant refrain, but ultimately I would get frustrated and tired of pestering her. Then I'd do them myself.

By the time I started sorting through the teetering piles of plates, the overturned bowls and pots half-full of milky goop, I would almost be overwhelmed by the stench of rotting food.

The smell of peach yogurt, chunky bits of vegetable beef soup and Vector soaking together for a week is something no one should ever have to experience.

Six months later I found myself living with a girl who demanded that the dishes be rinsed, dried and put away immediately after use. For a while I appreciated my new-found cleanliness, and the fact that I never had to go searching for a clean bowl for my cereal.

Our kitchen smelled a lot nicer than my old house. I felt organized, efficient and clean. Maybe I really was growing up, and this was just one more step in the direction of responsibility and adulthood.

One day, I came home to my roommate with hands on her hips. Taking me by the arm, she led me into the kitchen to show me how I'd missed spots on a couple plates. One of the pots had a stripe of gunk on the outside. My worst offense? I had put the dishes away with soap bubbles still stubbornly clinging to them.

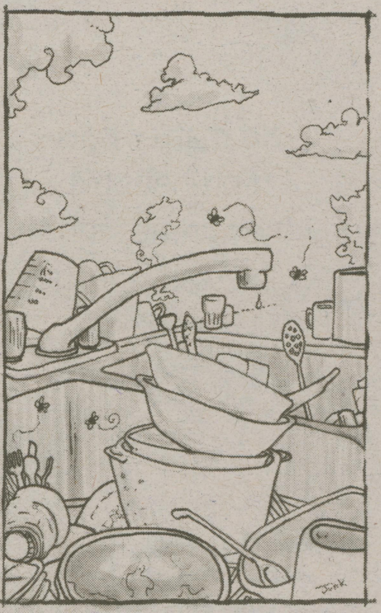
So what? I asked.

Leaving bubbles on the dishes can give you "the poops," she told me.

Now, I may not be the best dish washer. My attention to detail could definitely use some work, and maybe there are special techniques and tricks that I'm unaware of. Every now and then I even break a glass (or two). But I'm not sure how I feel about being blamed for giving someone "the poops."

These days, I've been living with my buddy Sean for almost a year, and we've got a pretty good system worked out.

Since I can't cook to save my life, he prepares the meals and I clean up afterward. (At least in theory.) We both have an apathetic acceptance of clutter, and most of the time we've got dirty glasses scattered around our apartment.



MARC JUNKER

But that I can live with.

It never gets bad enough that I can't fly around my house in a whirlwind and clean everything in an hour if I'm having people over. And let's face it, if no one's coming over to see the mess, then who gives a shit?

It's bizarre how something as arbitrary as dishes can become such a defining element in a roommate relationship.

I've seen dishes cause fights and ruin friendships. There's something about filthy dinnerware that puts some people over the edge. This is a perfect example of what Tyler Durden meant when he said, "the things you own end up owning you."

I'm not saying people should invest in paper plates or start eating off the floor. I'm not advocating any particular cleaning method or dishes routine. I just think people need to relax, and realize that there's more to life than dirty dishes.

Please read the 3 page essay

ReasonRejectsRelativity.ca

Logic obliterates Einstein's theory
over and over again.

YPY entitled to funding too

Mark Witten

Here at UVic, we pride ourselves for being a tolerant inclusive community.

We believe in minority rights and the open marketplace of ideas. Right?

The recent UVSS decision to revoke funding for a pro-life group runs contrary to these progressive ideals. True tolerance doesn't have the luxury of picking and choosing which causes it will tolerate. Such selectivity is intolerance — even prejudice.

Granting Youth Protecting Youth (YPY) club status acknowledges that the group legitimately represents a body of students. Denying that group funding because they do not conform to UVSS's pro-choice moral position violates the UVSS's own constitution which says clubs are to foster "students to express themselves in the diverse community of UVic."

But that's not the only constitution it violates. Not funding a group on the basis of its beliefs violates the Canadian Charter's right to be free from discrimination, and arguably, the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of conscience – fundamental values that shape the very fabric of our free and democratic nation.

This decision is dangerous. Throughout history, discriminating against and silencing minorities has a horrible legacy.

On the other hand, tolerating divergent viewpoints has given us women's ability to vote, aboriginal rights and a black American president. For centuries, people have been fighting for the right to advocate for a cause free from discrimination.

After so much progress, why now would the UVSS choose discrimination over tolerance?

The precious right to openly debate critical moral and policy issues cannot simply be discarded when people personally disagree with a cause.

The issue is bigger than that. Nobody would tolerate not funding Hempology 101 if the UVSS decided they disagreed with their opposition to Canadian criminal law. And can you imagine not funding the Muslim Students' Association because the UVSS disagreed with their religion?

YPY has a divergent agenda to advance the rights of human life forms (forget "personhood"), aged zero to nine months. It strives to strike a balance between the rights of women and early human lives. It does not, as Amy Smith claimed, seek to callously abolish women's rights or criminalize abortions for victims of rape.

Not funding YPY is a misguided attempt to be progressive. Ironically, in the name of progress, the UVSS has adopted a regressive discriminatory attitude that censors debate and curbs human rights.

The University of B.C. Okanagan's student society ended up in a $45,000 legal battle for banning a pro-life club that flagrantly violated postering policies. There are no such violations here.

Our student society is practically begging for a lawsuit.

The UVSS's reactionary intolerance should not be tolerated. It's un-constitutional, un-UVic and an Orwellian blemish upon the reputation of our school.

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JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Barack Obama uniquely prepared for presidency

Eliot Pence

If nations are communities, then the practical experience President-Elect Barack Obama acquired as a community organizer in Chicago are among his most vital attributes in leading the U.S.

Obama has spoken positively of his community organizing days. "[It was] the best education I ever had, better than anything I got at Harvard Law School," he once said.

Obama would do well to draw on his own unique experiences in Chicago to navigate his community through recession and insecurity over the course of the next four years.

Community organizers take over when politicians and administrations fail. And if polls are any indication, the administration which Obama will pick up after is among the most failed in recent American history.

Community organizers, often absent when large national programs fail (and usually the reason why they succeed), root national crises in local situations.

The mantra "think globally, act locally" is born of a community organizing ethos, and makes practical steps forward in its focus on grassroots action.

In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina left thousands displaced and stranded, community organizers helped co-ordinate, communicate and rebuild. They offer alternatives to intractable political treaties, such as Kyoto, that have failed to create global consensus and action. Community organizers such as outreach groups and other international aid agencies help to drain the swamp of want and need that breeds international violence and unrest.

Saul Alinsky, one of the founders of the theory of community organizing, believed people are "moved primarily by perceived immediate self-interests," while morality is a "rhetorical rationale for expedient action and self-interest."

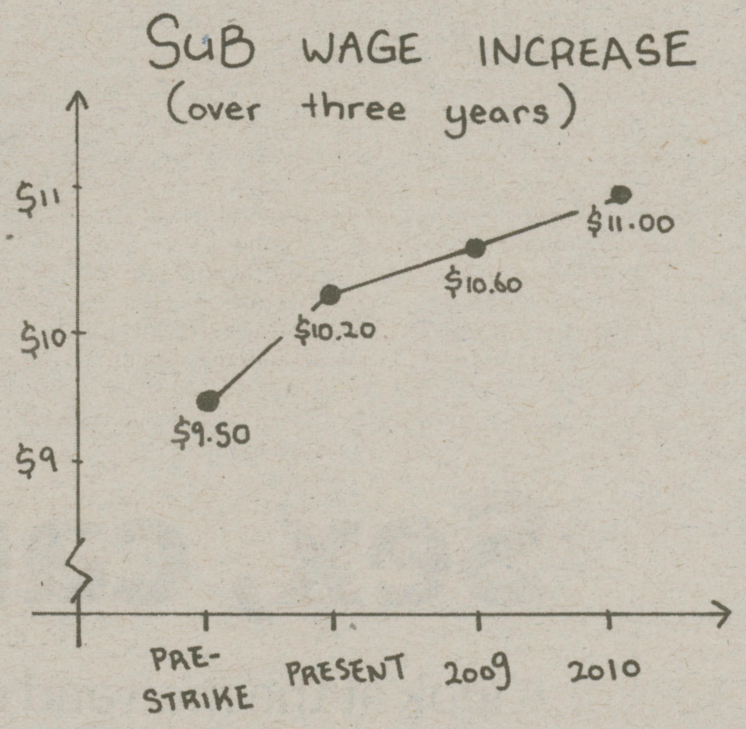
The upshot is that the job of an organizer is simple: to identify what citizens are thinking and propose practical solutions for attaining them. For the most part, Obama has proven himself effective at discovering what the electorate has (hope) and what it wants (change). Proposing the practical steps towards achieving what it wants, however, is the difficult part.

For his part, Obama has already sketched out the broad contours of a domestic policy which draws from community organizing principles and relies on local engagement, such as a "Classroom Corps," to enliven early childhood educational programs, and an "Energy Corps" to conduct renewable energy and environmental cleanup projects in neighborhoods.

Obama will have to draw deeply on his community organizing days and act progressively to ensure the U.S. will once again become a flourishing community in a neighborhood of nations.

The SUB strike ain't over

Aida Mashari



JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

The labour dispute between the UVic Student Society (UVSS) Board and Student Union Building employees has been a long and ugly fight with shoddy results. It is almost guaranteed to repeat itself when the new collective agreement expires — that is, unless the board begins to act now.

What was the result of the strike that saw the SUB closed for two months and put SUB workers under much financial strain? Another three-year collective agreement with similar flaws.

The lowest paid SUB employees will receive a 70 cent increase this year, followed by 40 cents and 40 cents in the next two years. The wage numbers quoted during this dispute, quite unfairly, have included five per cent vacation pay.

But vacation pay is vacation pay, so what is the real wage? About $9.50 is roughly where the real wage was, $10.20 is where it is now and $10.60 is where it will be in one year.

The CFS campaign that the board signed onto advocates $11 as a living hourly wage one year from now. The board argues that they are a non-profit society that cannot place the same standards on itself as it does on for-profit entities.

The union did receive its final wage offer — same as in their non-negotiable agreement that had been put to the board some two weeks before the strike was over. The main reason the board had refused to accept this offer which continued the strike for two more weeks, was one condition: it tied management wage increases to unionized wage increases. This condition was the deal-breaker that was taken out of the final collective agreement in order for the board to agree.

Let's not forget that one of the union's main grievances going into this labour dispute was the wage increases that management had given itself during the debt years, while the union had agreed on good faith that they would hold off on a real wage increase until the SUB was out of debt. Once the SUB was out of debt (as of 2007), the board's initial offer was a 10 cent increase in the first year to the lowest paid employees. This meager offer was the board acting on advice from its management, specifically Marnie Jensen — the only one holding long-term memory of the SUB, considering the board changes each spring. This betrayal to the union, among other reasons, made the management style of Jensen another grievance in the strike.

This anti-labour action of a 10 cent increase after six years is shocking considering management salaries, with Jensen earning over $80,000 a year (her exact salary is confidential). It is, most evidently, the board acting on her advice that saw the dispute unfold as it has. This demands us to ask: why is Jensen (who reportedly does not even hold a university degree) worth over $80,000 to students, when other students are working for pennies doing the grunt work of our SUB? And why then, in a non-profit society, should anyone make this much money?

At one of the first board meetings in September, Jensen fielded about 80 per cent of the tough strike questions, with the board clearly unable to defend a stance on its own. It is time for a management that takes direction from the board — the elected representatives of the students — and not the other way around.

During the first week back at work, the mood was tense in the SUB. Not surprising, considering the union will not be in a legal strike position for three years, and is once again at a power disadvantage with SUB management.

Still, some are taking the effort to bring things back together. Union representative Michael Ryan has the view that now that the strike is over, "we're back on the same team." And, board members invited employees to a traditional cleansing ceremony to take place at the SUB to clear the bad energy. But some things, like concerns with UVSS management and unfair wages, cannot be smudged away.

Decisive action is necessary — action that has the long-term interest of the SUB at heart by enshrining a living wage for its employees into its foundations as a fundamental cost. A living wage may not be legally enforceable, but it is enforced by a union's right to collective bargaining and to strike.

It's people power — and it would nice if this board could get behind that.

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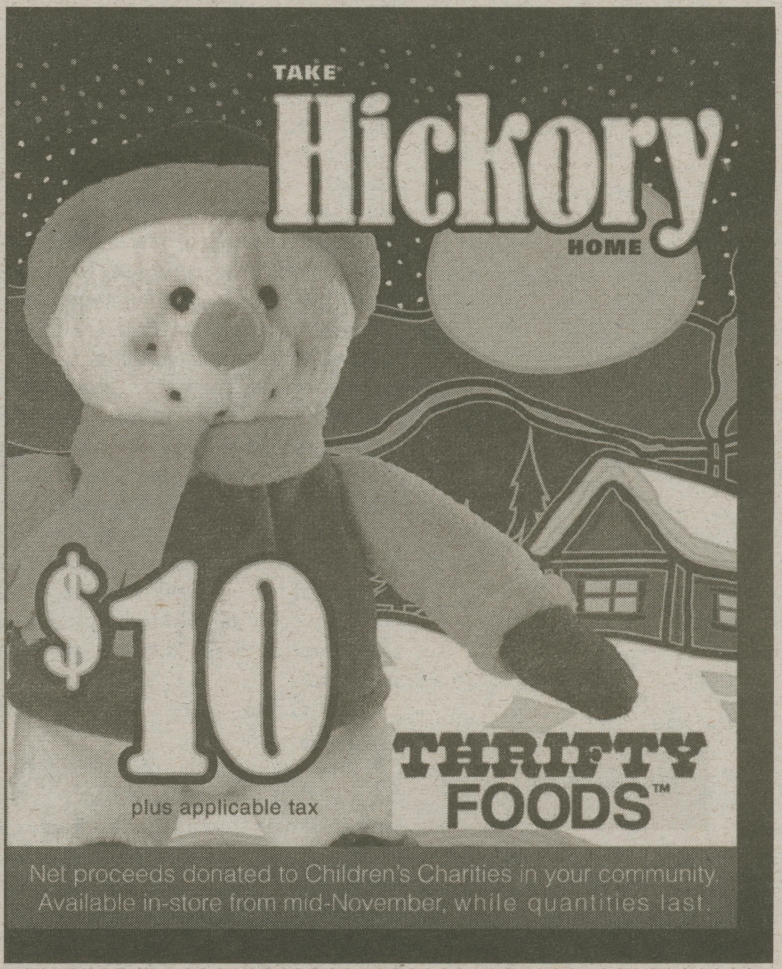
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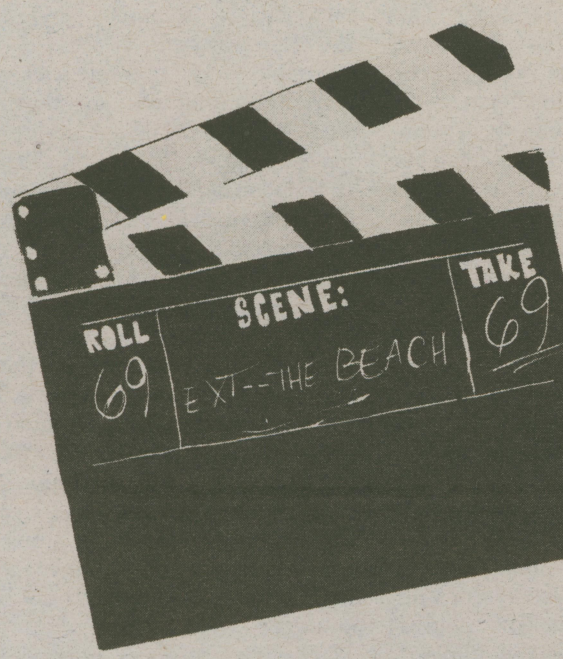
Sex, camera, action

A look at the men and women who sustain the porn industry

Words by Andy Mac of The Capilano Courier
Illustration by Marc Junker



VANCOUVER (CUP) – The sun is hot and the beach is packed, yet all is not complete: my cigarette hangs unlit. I pass five people without a lighter, and I'm beginning to wonder if I'm ever going to be able to inhale another five minutes off my life when I spot an answer to my prayer.

A busty brunette raises her arm. How convenient. I approach and notice a picture of a naked woman on this particular lighter.

To my surprise, the woman tells me it is a picture of her, so I sit down next to her and her equally attractive friend. We begin to talk.

Welcome to the set

Kate and Ashley (whose names have been changed for this story) are in their early 20s and are both former porn actresses. They left the adult film industry for a variety of reasons, and have now switched to stripping for their income.

Both girls come from wealthy B.C. homes and make it clear that having sex in front of a camera for money was a conscious choice and not one made out of desperation. Both also professed that one of the most difficult aspects about that choice was dealing with friends and family.

"Shooting films caused a lot of disruption within my family," says Kate. "My younger sister won't even speak to me. She hates me, which is sad because we were always so close."

Obviously, most parents have nightmares about their beautiful young daughters getting fucked for money on the big screen. This was no different for Kate and Ashley, even though both their parents learned to accept their lifestyles over time.

Ashley even got her father to watch one of her films.

"He was super uncomfortable at first, but then he said that I looked like I was having fun so it didn't bother him as much," Ashley says.

They explain that the sets they worked on were very professional. Their job was laid out clearly; they were there to fuck and get paid, nothing more. The producers left the creativity to them, and there was never any force involved.

"If I was uncomfortable with anything, like anal or facial cum shots ... it was never a problem. We worked together and I was never forced to do anything I didn't want to," Kate says.

Most of Ashley's and Kate's work was filmed in Southern California, a Mecca for the porn industry. And their films were of a fairly high standard.

Both have seen themselves naked on the Internet, but only in short promo trailers or clips.

The most positive aspect of work for the duo (who have been friends since childhood) was what any person might expect: the money. In fact, Money was their only reason for entering the business, they say.

But even though it was very good (anywhere between $750 and $1,500 U.S. per shot), it was not enough to keep them there for long.

The two have performed in only a few films each. Neither one claims to be proud of her work, but at the same time, neither regrets doing it. Ashley and Kate see that time as a learning stage, a monumental point in their lives.

Acting in adult films has also given these women extremely high levels of self-confidence and empowerment, but with strange stigmas attached.

Battling stigmas

Neither Ashley nor Kate suffered from all-too-common eating disorders, but both report that seeing themselves on screen did lead them to worry non-stop about their physical appearances. And while they also avoided stereotypical drug problems, both women label drug abuse as a major problem in the adult film industry. For many, the link between narcotics and the porn industry is an easy association, especially considering the working conditions.

"People always seem to think that the women in front of the camera are messed up on drugs and forced to do what they are doing," says Bryan, a Vancouver porn producer. "With us, drugs are not even allowed on set. We cater to our actors and actresses. We are all professional and work together; this line of work requires a team effort."

Bryan is 28 years old, and youthful in appearance. He owns and operates B&M Internet Services, an adult film production company based out of Vancouver. Bryan boasts that his company gives the public what they demand: "safe adult content that is explicit."

He professes that his aim is to set up personal websites based around his working models. The goal is to build a reputation and a name for these models from which, he hopes, they can grow and expand.

But Bryan stresses that what the women want, they get.

"A few weeks ago, we were putting up ass shots of one of our models for her new site. Forty-five minutes after we put up what we thought were the best shots, she called us in frantic distress," he says. "She did not like one of the shots, so five minutes later that picture was taken off and the model herself came in to pick the picture she wanted."

He then dispels a pervasive myth that the pornography industry is glamorous. Bryan, who holds a business degree, claims to have become desensitized to watching sex.

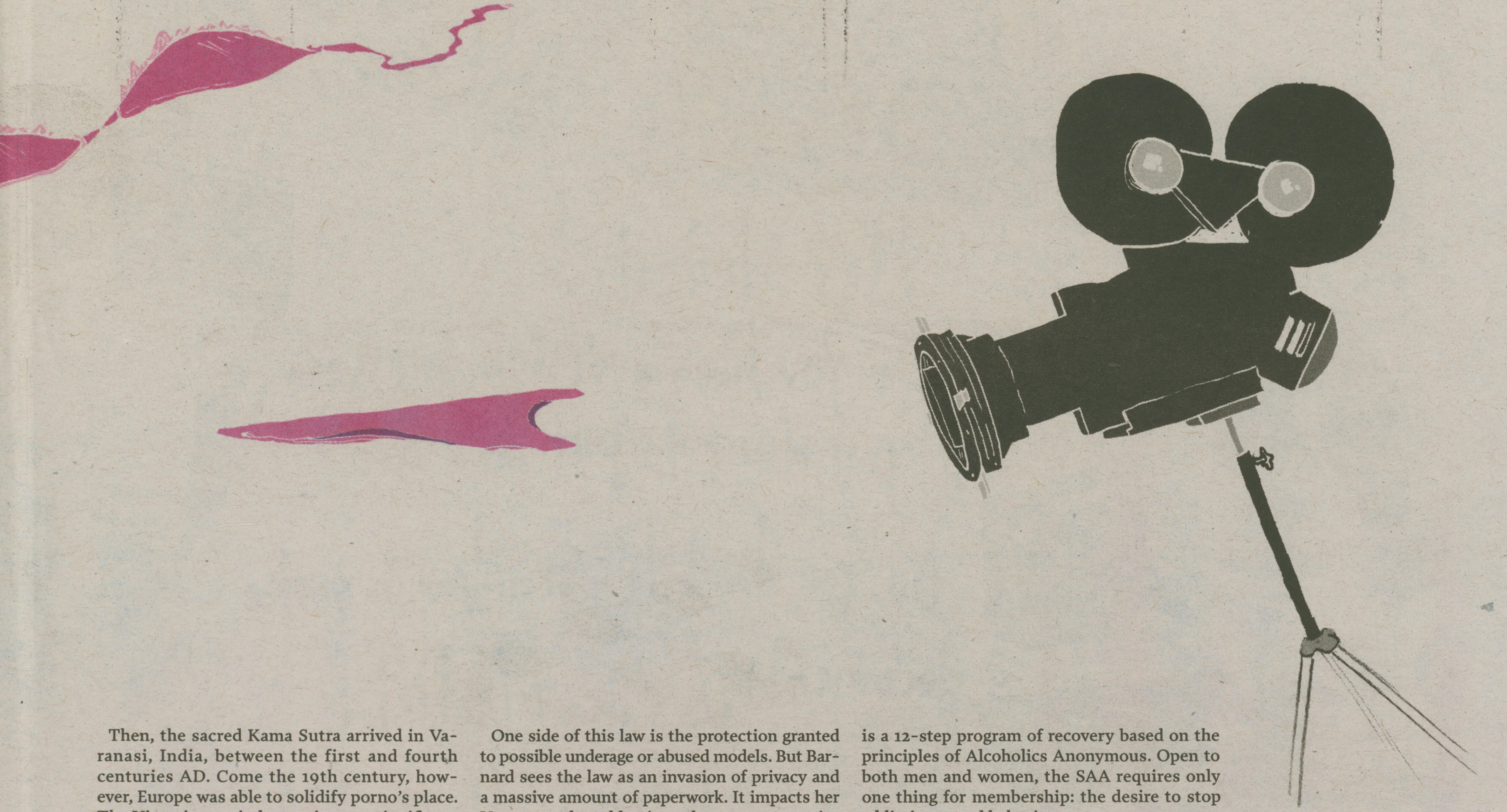
"This is really just a job for me," he says. "I work at my desk without even looking up, while 20 feet away, people are having sex in front of the camera. At the end of the day, I go home to my wife and kids."

Bryan and his business partner see themselves as helping men and women around the world by "providing an outlet for sexual fantasy." They create fabricated sexual territories for people who cannot create these spaces in reality.

Porn through the ages

Pornographic material has evolved slowly throughout the years. Nevertheless, it seems to be a recurring social phenomenon.

The earliest pornographic image may be 7,200 years old, recently dug up from a Stone Age pit in Eastern Germany, depicting a man with a small but impressive penis. The Greeks followed this more than 4,000 years later with sexual paintings.



Then, the sacred Kama Sutra arrived in Varanasi, India, between the first and fourth centuries AD. Come the 19th century, however, Europe was able to solidify porno's place. The Victorian period gave rise to a significant amount of naughty literature, and since then, nudity and sexual art have spread like wildfire across the world.

This finally flared up into the image we are so familiar with today: the stereotypical porn star, complete with big fluffy hair, massive fake breasts and a cubic kilogram of makeup.

Now, many believe that an astronomical surge in pornography production is upon us, greased up by digital technology into a money-pumping industry. In this age, it's all about camera gear, lighting equipment and film-editing software — and it's getting more accessible each day.

With new advances in equipment, the Internet is laden with amateur videos sporting young, attractive, but relatively normal-looking women. There is nothing stopping the average couple from setting up a camera in their bedroom and selling their sex the very next day, or even via live stream.

To accompany the changing times, modern porn companies have to be creative and a step ahead of the competition to make any sort of living in this multi-billion dollar game. Fortunately for horny people everywhere, producers have adapted to the possibilities nicely.

Today's sex stars

Jackie Barnard, owner of Vancouver's M Squared Productions, says that the focus of her enterprise is a website called MaskTV.com, the premise of which is to literally make sexual fantasies a reality.

It works like this: any person wanting to explore new sexual territory will send their ultimate fantasy to Barnard (she receives hundreds each month), and then she sifts through them carefully. Once she has decided on some interesting scenarios, the next step is bringing the actual creator of this fantasy in to be interviewed. After feeling out her actor, Barnard creates the sexual fantasy, with the original author starring in the main role.

The site is doing well, but Jackie claims that new American legislation has complicated her work, even across the border.

A compliance law called Section 2257, which just passed in the U.S. last year, requires extensive and meticulous documentation of every person involved in pornography. The penalty for producing and selling pornography without complying with these laws is two to five years in prison. This includes thespians, producers, film crew, distributors and even buyers — all must give full, detailed information.

One side of this law is the protection granted to possible underage or abused models. But Barnard sees the law as an invasion of privacy and a massive amount of paperwork. It impacts her Vancouver-based business because companies like Mask TV are seen as starting grounds for budding porn stars. Once these actresses make any sort of headway within the industry, they are bound for bigger platforms.

Hubs like Las Vegas and Southern California attract most of the talent within the industry, although a few Mask TV models continue to come back for work.

"The serious actresses are in it to stay in it," says Barnard.

And so the Canadian company must adhere to U.S. standards to ensure their future growth.

Today, between 20 and 30 companies across the Lower Mainland produce adult films, but most of the market is in the U.S. — the country that consumes the most "smut." In 2006, the U.S. was the holder of 244,661,900 pornographic web pages, which amounted to 89 per cent of the global total.

Still, Barnard claims she enjoys her job. She likes to think that one of the best aspects of her work is giving average people confidence — something she figures may have been lacking before shooting for some. Barnard also sees her company as allowing people to explore sexual fantasies, while making porn stars out of the common everyday citizen.

"You're going to come, you're going to perform, you're going to get paid, and you're going to go home," she says.

If this sounds business-like, it's no surprise — the annual revenue of this industry amounts to about $97 billion. Every second of every day, $3,076 are spent on porn, and 28,258 Internet users are watching it, mostly men between the ages of 35 and 49.

This level of consumption has created a full-blown addiction in some, and most start early: about 90 per cent of kids get their first peek between eight and 10 years of age, most while doing homework.

When asked about people who are addicted to Internet pornography, Barnard says she loves this possibility and wishes these addicts were hooked on her site.

"It's better than drugs, isn't it?" she says.

As far as the corruption of youth, Barnard feels anything goes. She does not deny that this may not be the healthiest thing, but sees her company as doing nothing more extreme than the mainstream media.

When sex goes wrong

Some do not take the matter so lightly. Based out of Houston, Texas, Sexaholics Anonymous is a 12-step program of recovery based on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. Open to both men and women, the SAA requires only one thing for membership: the desire to stop addictive sexual behaviour.

The program allows members to "discover and explore what healthy sexuality means to them," states the Sexaholics Anonymous website. One recovering sex addict, who agreed to speak anonymously, has much to say about the difficulties of his addiction.

"It was at the point where I would be running to the store to buy movies or magazines. When I got my new computer, I missed work for days just to be in front of watching porn," he says.

The man said that as he started his steps, he began to tally all the money he had spent on his addiction. This, added up with time he spent over the last 20 years, make him shake his head.

"I feel ashamed; ashamed and depressed that I have wasted so much of my life," he says.

He also says the SAA helped him immensely. He feels no sexual urge at meetings and is relaxed and happy afterwards.

Many outlets cater to sex addicts, whether it's in the form of Internet pornography, strip clubs, prostitution, or hidden cameras in public spots. The common theme is that sex in some way has absorbed these people to the point where nothing else matters, not unlike drugs or alcohol.

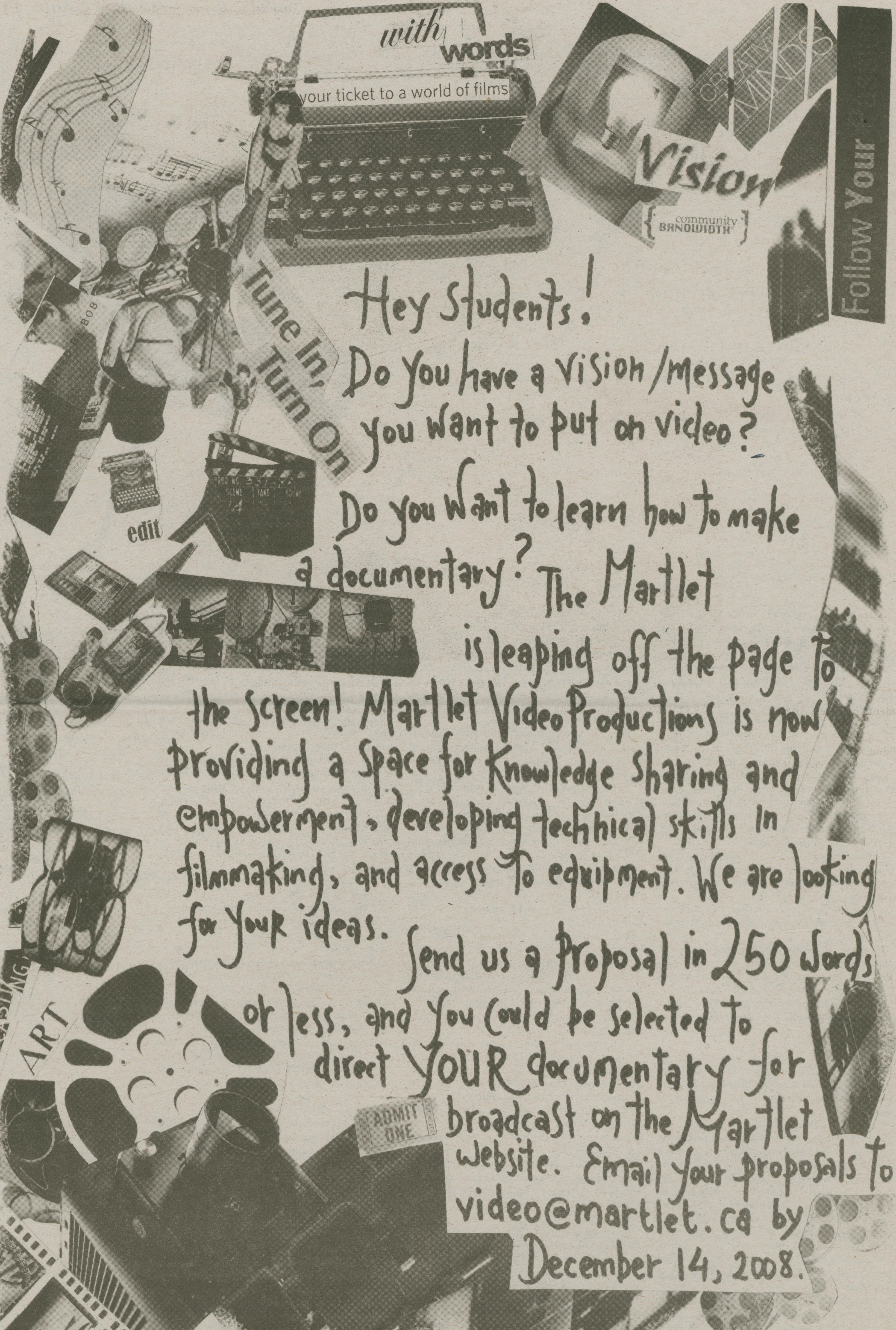
By sharing their stories, SAA members feel a companionship — a sense of community from which they hope to improve their destructive behaviour. With this platform of support and sharing, they aim to lead well-balanced lives.

An industry to come, never to go

While Kate and Ashley have had relatively easy, even empowering experiences in the industry, just the idea of sex invokes an array of intense emotions in almost everyone. By documenting and selling this natural human activity, proprietors of the adult film industry have sparked a major controversy.

Some feminists and religious conservative groups have fought to ban porn since the early '70s; they see it as obscene and degrading. At the same time, other critics have fought to leave pornography uncensored; their claim being that censoring pornography is actually more detrimental to women as it suggests that they are helpless victims without any desire for sexual pleasure.

Still, millions of people support this pornography-generating machine, which is growing significantly every year worldwide. Whatever the outlook one has on adult films and their legitimacy, the fact is that this multi-billion dollar industry is here to stay.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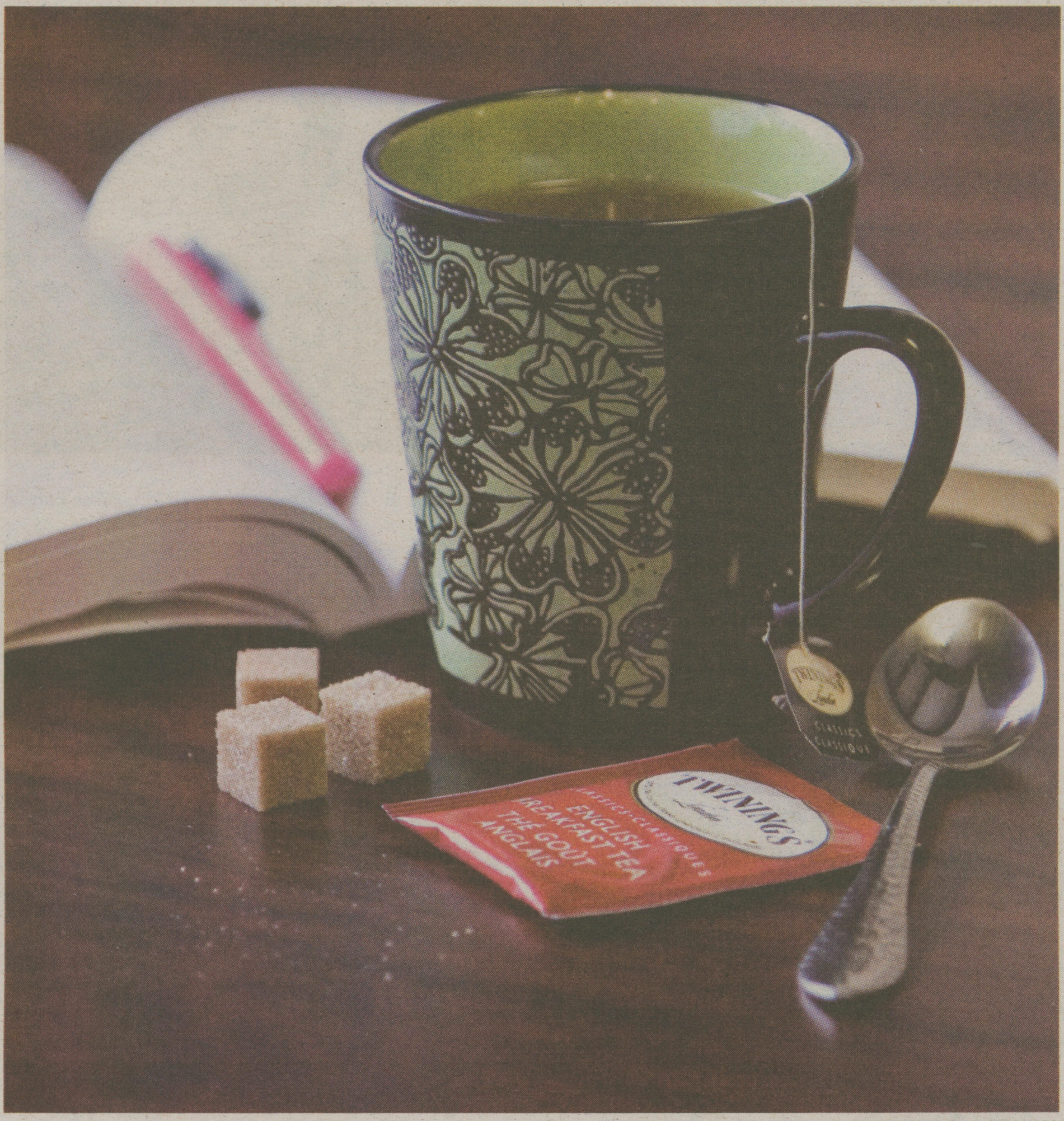
Finding the perfect study spot: an endless journey

Kate Mosley



JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI PHOTO

Cafés offer the perfect get away from the usual campus study spots. And the coffee's always fresh.

With exam season upon us, the quest for the perfect study spot has never been so imminent.

The Student Union Building may be open again, but its hustle and bustle aren't conducive to a study environment. McPherson Library, on the other hand, can be oppresively quiet or simply intimidating.

Here are a few off-campus cafés to catch up on your readings.

Moka House – 345 Cook St.

HOURS: 6 a.m. – midnight, seven days a week
THIRSTY: Moka House offers more variety in drinks than many other coffee shops. Not in the mood for a London Fog? Try an Asian Mist (which uses ginger tea instead of Earl Grey).

Moka House's coffee is organic, fair trade and bird-friendly. But beware — drinks are served hot.
HUNGRY: Moka House offers tons of options for hungry studiers. Try a samosa with mango chutney.
PRICES: No drinks above $5, with most falling in to the $3 to $4 range.
ATMOSPHERE: The Moka House is often busy, but because of its size and heated patio, this is not always a problem.

Seating ranges from comfy couches to chairs and stools. There is a vibrant community wall in the back highlighting local venues and upcoming events.

Looking outside, you can watch the quaint sights of Cook St. Village — think happy hippies and students on bikes. And let's not forget all the beautiful shedding trees that stand out front of the building.
OVERHEARD: "The true Samurai is dead. The modern Samurai on the other hand..."
INTERNET: Free
RATING: 4 out of 5 coffee beans

Urban Cup – 3690 Shelbourne St.

HOURS: 6:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
THIRSTY: Very minimal drink selection. However, they do serve Fernwood Coffee.
HUNGRY: There's more food than drink available.

Urban Cup has a hot grill, but the smell (and sight) of greasy hash browns and bacon cooking can make studying a bit difficult. Be sure to try the Mediterranean wrap.
PRICES: Average to high. A wrap is over $7.
ATMOSPHERE: Urban Cup seems like the place to be for a senior's early bird lunch. The general appearance is less than inviting, making the concrete walls of the McPherson Library look appealing.

There are two counters, which make things confusing for customers, and baristas seem to be preoccupied dreaming of coffee-beanless days.
OVER HEARD: "If you wake up on the couch with a sore neck, you are going to have a sore neck."
INTERNET: Free. You just need to obtain the secret code from behind the counter.
RATING: 2.5 out of 5 coffee beans

Bean Around the World – 533 Fisgard St.

HOURS: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday
THIRSTY: From hot chocolate to the rare, dark roasted Cuban Peaberry, Bean Around the World has it. Their coffee is organic and fair trade. They also serve a mean soy latte.
HUNGRY: Not a very large selection, but great tastes. Sandwiches are grilled to perfection but lack condiments for dipping.
PRICES: $3 – $5 for drinks; $3 – $7 for food.
ATMOSPHERE: Very chic style, but the canoe on the roof or functioning stoplight on the wall can make it too distracting to study. Bean Around the World is a better place to catch up with friends.
OVERHEARD: Loud music.
INTERNET: None available.
RATING: 3 out of 5 coffee beans

Solstice Café – 529 Pandora Ave.

HOURS: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday; 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wednesday; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday.
THIRSTY: Solstice has a wide variety of drinks. Their coffee is fair trade, organic and supports local companies (like the Fernwood Coffee Company). Try the London Fog — it is served in a unique way.
HUNGRY: Killer cookies. Beware. They may just be too good to be true. Plus, their food is local and organic as well.
PRICES: Drinks from small to large are mostly in the $1 - $3 range. This café wins the prize for being lightest on the wallet.
ATMOSPHERE: Funky and fun. There are cool paintings on the wall, a piano that customers can play (if they ask nicely), an entire bookshelf of newspapers, books, toys for kids (or bored studiers) and a Solstice Café Book of Love Letters.

They showcase the work of local artists too. Solstice also holds after-hours poetry, art and music shows.
OVERHEARD: Nothing. It's busy but large, so you aren't crammed next to anybody.
INTERNET: Yes. Ask someone from behind the counter for the code.
RATING: 4.5 out of 5 coffee beans. (It narrowly misses a perfect score because of the impossible-to-memorize hours.)

Tea tantalizies, invigorates and heals says book

THE STORY OF TEA: A CULTURAL HISTORY AND DRINKING GUIDE
Mary Lou Heiss and Robert J. Heiss
TEN SPEED PRESS
2007

Mark Seneviratne

It's an easy time to be stressed out by your job, your classes or the uncertain economy. But it isn't hard to relax — warm some tea to smooth out the rough edges of your day.

Tea is enjoyed by millions of people every day across the globe, though few know about its rich history, and about how it has become a tradition and custom in many countries. *The Story of Tea: A Cultural History and Drinking Guide,* by Mary Lou Heiss and Robert J. Heiss, broadens readers' understanding in this almost encyclopedic tome.

The book traces the origins of tea from a forest in a Chinese backwater, to the upper echelon of Imperial Chinese society, loved and cherished by emperors and generals alike. Researchers found that wild tea plants date back to over 1,000 years ago, with its beginnings in Yunnan province near Burma. The Tang dynasty made sure tea lost its association as "a crude, bitter brew." From then on, the ritual of tea drinking became a cultured social rite during the Tang era.

The Heiss' book delves into the fact that for Europeans, Dutch traders proliferated the habit of drinking tea through their trading contacts in China. However, it was the English and the English East India Company who made it possible for tea to be brought back to England for mass consumption. Because of England's tea habit and subsequent trade deficit, England created a market for Indian opium in China to counteract the loss of revenues because of the consumption of Chinese tea.

According to the book, the most commonly preferred tea in the world is green tea, developed by tea artisans using six common methodologies. After being plucked from the fields, and then left to dry, the tea leaves goes through a process of being either sun-dried, basket-fried, pan-fried, oven-dried, tumbled or steamed. Tea and its curative properties have sent scientists and university researchers scrambling to explore and determine its benefits.

One such study conducted by UCLA has through testing of "more than eight national brands of green and black tea revealing staggeringly different anti-oxidant levels," says the book. Tea has also shown to promote a healthy metabolism and "contributes to oral health by inhibiting bacterial plaque."

The Story of Tea is very thorough and expansive, covering a variety of styles and types of tea. It also shows examples of fair trade tea, which is tea production designed to increase the economic viability of disadvantaged workers in poor regions. The book has an easy-to-understand style. However, it could have included some Internet links to websites on tea, as well as their own homepage, for fellow tea aficionados.

Overall, the Heiss' book is a richly entertaining and insightful reference, one highly recommended for library and university collections. Its broad scope is perfect for a subject everyone knows but few fully understand.

As *The Story of Tea* shows, tea makes the world a more joyous

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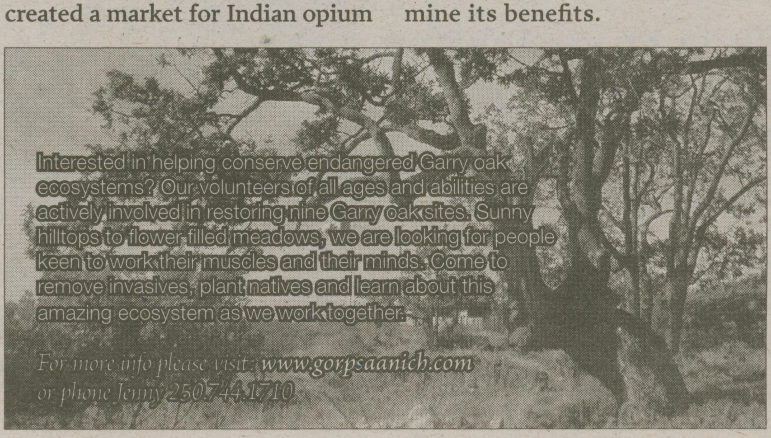
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Pigs fly on Pink Floyd's continued popularity

What: Pigs
Where: Upstairs Cabaret
When: Nov. 27, 10 p.m.
How much: $10 in advance at Lyles Place, Darcy's Pub; $10 at the door

Gemma Karstens-Smith

For most tribute bands, replicating the music of their favourite stars is enough of a homage.

But for Pink Floyd tribute band Pigs, playing the songs their idols wrote is just the beginning — the Victoria band doesn't just perform the band's material, they recreate the Pink Floyd experience. And on Nov. 27, the band will bring that experience to Upstairs Cabaret.

Pigs aims to emulate what they believe was the best version of Pink Floyd, as they were in 1977, after the release of *Animals*. However, Pigs' nearly three-hour-long set includes songs from the 1970 *Atom Heart Mother* album, and 1983's *The Final Cut*. It also includes Pink Floyd's biggest hit, *Darkside of the Moon*.

"Other Pink Floyd tribute acts often portray the Floyd as they were in the 1990s," said Josh Szczepanowski, Pigs vocalist and lead guitarist, in an e-mail interview. "We decided to be more true to the real band from the '70s."

For Pigs, being true to the band means getting into character and taking on the personas of the original members.

"If Roger Waters played guitar on a song for the real band, KC [Hingley, Pigs' bassist and co-vocalist] plays guitar on that part. If Gilmour only sings one verse of a song in the real band, I only sing that verse in our band," said Szczepanowski. "It may seem petty or nerdy, but I'm honestly turned right off if I see another Floyd act and their Roger is wearing a cowboy hat and playing an eight-string bass and not singing."

When Hingley and Szczepanowski's original project, Hello Clarice, lost their bass player last year, they decided to finally act on their long-term idea of forming a Pink Floyd tribute band with their drummer Mike Quirke. After picking up keyboard player Adam Basterfield and second guitarist David Dutkewich, Pigs was born.

"Becoming a tribute was a decision based on necessity and a shared love of the original band," said Szczepanowski.

Pigs is unique as a tribute band in their decision to use the same or similar gear – from instruments to amps – as Pink Floyd did, meaning that they look and sound more like the original band. Szczepanowski says that many fans won't even notice these subtle details, but he insists that they make all the difference to the band.

Since their first show at Sopranos last September, schedules have been non-stop for the members of Pigs. They've been playing shows in Victoria, Duncan and Gabriola Island, and working with a videographer and web developer to update their website.

PROVIDED PHOTO
Victoria band Pigs, Canada's most authentic Pink Floyd tribute band, plays the Upstairs Cabaret on Nov. 27.

While all of the members hold down full-time jobs (and Szczepanowski and Hingley are also full-time students in their fourth-year at UVic) the band also rehearses 12–15 hours a week.

The busy fall has taught Pigs how playing in a tribute band differs from playing in an original outfit.

"Many people who don't play in bands likely don't understand the difficulty involved in it: booking shows, running rehearsals, paying for gear, touring," said Szczepanowski. "Sure, a tribute act has those same problems, but they are made a lot easier by a simple fact — you don't have to force anyone to come to your shows."

Szczepanowski said nothing makes playing music more fun than having an appreciative audience there and ready to go, though there are things Pigs members miss about playing their own songs.

"It is hard to precisely replicate another band, especially a band so well-known and influential as Pink Floyd. I mean, 80 per cent of the audience each night knows every note to every guitar solo, so everything has to be right on," said Szczepanowski. "We all love the Floyd, and are thrilled to be doing what we're doing, but ... playing the way we do is much more akin to a classical music recital than a rock concert."

Still, all the time and effort they've put in so far has paid off. Szczepanowski said the band thought Floyd fans would be difficult to win over, but that nothing could be further from the truth.

"We've had many people who have seen the real band come up to us and say they thought we were just as good," Szczepanowski said. "That really makes all the hard work worth-while."

For more information on Pigs, check out their website, canadianpinkfloyd.com, their Myspace page or their Facebook group.

Brand new Victoria boutique mirrors local culture

Trisha Gieni

The opening of Kirsten Wright's new shop, Regalia Boutique, on Nov. 22 may have just issued in an age of new royalty for Victoria.

Violins and accordions could be heard down the street during the official opening of the local boutique, and the tea service and music continued all afternoon.

The store itself, located on Pandora Ave. between Government and Store St., could easily be described as eclectic, carrying items of clothing, stationery, teas and everything in between. But looking around, guests notice a thread running through each item that can only be described as local.

"Why not buy something made by someone you know, or someone you could meet?" said Wright.

Each item currently in the new store was made locally by people Wright has met during her time running another downtown business, Studio 16 ½, with her partner and boyfriend Bill Cowen.

Studio 16 ½, an art studio turned gallery, was less than ideal for retail. Its location in Fan Tan Alley, up a flight of stairs, proved to be a challenge for drawing in customers.

"It's remarkable how different it is with a front window," said Wright of Regalia's Pandora location.

Studio 16 ½ still exists, but has gone back to what it was originally there for — a gallery space. Because many local artists who displayed their art in the gallery also made clothing and jewelry, the art was shoved more and more into the corner of the space to make room for the other items. Wright said everything was becoming too cramped.

The first nudge towards Regalia happened four years ago at the studio's Christmas craft night, when Wright kept meeting local designers and wanted to sell their stuff. To do so, a new venue was a necessity.

Coming up with the name for the store was one of the most difficult parts for Wright, until a friend of hers suggested that she think of things that she likes and go from there. She came up with: cats, art and Frank Zappa. The song "Peaches and Regalia" got her thinking.

While Zappa is the inspiration, the word regalia has become a sort of definition of the boutique's purpose. Regalia, like crowns and headdresses, are worn by royalty and are representative of that culture, Wright explained.

"This is the regalia of this area," she said. "It is made for and adapted to our surroundings."

The entire place, bright green walls and all, has a comfortable feel — like everyone inside. Whether guests are just stopping by or trying things on, the feeling fits.

"Those are my neighbours; they are all entrepreneurs themselves," Wright says of the musicians outside providing ambiance to the regal atmosphere. They are only a few of the many people Wright says all came together to make the new store happen.

Wright, a big advocate for supporting locals, says that people need to put their energy and money into community. She believes that if you put your money into where you are — the local designers, the local shops — the economic machine will work. The problem happens when people put their money elsewhere, she explains.

TRISHA GIENI PHOTO
Regalia carries local treasures, from clothing to tea to greeting cards.

Wright's trick is not to worry so much about doing it, but taking the steps to actually getting something done. She says it might not always be good, but it is a start. Glancing over the crowd that has gathered to browse the shop, things look pretty good for Wright.

Wright looks over, having just finished making crowns for the members of the musical ensemble that sits in the front window, and stands snacking on almonds and figs at a back table.

"I feel totally unprofessional most of the time," she said.

Whether she feels professional or not, Regalia appears to be a royal success.

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Battle of the Bands champions not so introverted

Doug Hamilton-Evans

Doug Clayton and Ian Bush collaboratively write songs with a simple but effective philosophy in mind: they want their music to entertain a crowd.

"People want to listen to songs that they are instantly familiar with," said Bush. "It creates an emotional attachment."

Bush is the vocals behind UVic's reigning Battle of the Bands champ, Introverter. Clayton, his fellow creative mind, rocks lead guitar.

Clayton describes Introverter's sound as "essentially guitar rock," which they aim to make fun and danceable.

Their songs are instantly catchy, fast and snappy; none of them drop below 130 beats per minute. Bush often sings at a rapid fire pace, sometimes barely keeping up with the tempo. At other times, he lays out sustained lyrical interludes, while the band charges ahead around him. Clayton plays quick, crisp chords, expert arpeggios and the occasional guitar solo, while Chris Buchan provides hypnotic melodies on a bass that he made himself. Meanwhile, Chris Jeffery skilfully backs up the band with explosive drumming.

Since their glorious victory at UVic's Battle of the Bands on March 31, Introverter has played an estimated 25 shows and recorded their first album. Their prize for the win was a show at Felicita's, which they finally played on Nov. 7, after being delayed by the strike.

But the past eight months have not provided an easy road.

"It seems like a fast progression, but every step has been minute and it's taken a lot of work," Bush said.

Introverter's self-titled debut album, which debuted on Nov. 18 at a CD release show at Lucky Bar, reflects the trials and tribulations of being in a band and "getting that shit together," said Clayton.

Their song "Last Transmission" is about the difficulties of picking a name ("Said it's a shame, we can't settle on a name/To me it's all the same"), while "Be My Guest" is about the disappointment of their friends not seeing them play at the Battle of the Bands ("We went and won a congeniality contest/When we say come you've gone deaf"). "Liquid Assets" sounds like it's about a nasty breakup, but it's actually about kicking out a member of the band ("Sorry that it has gone this way/All we said is that you cannot play").

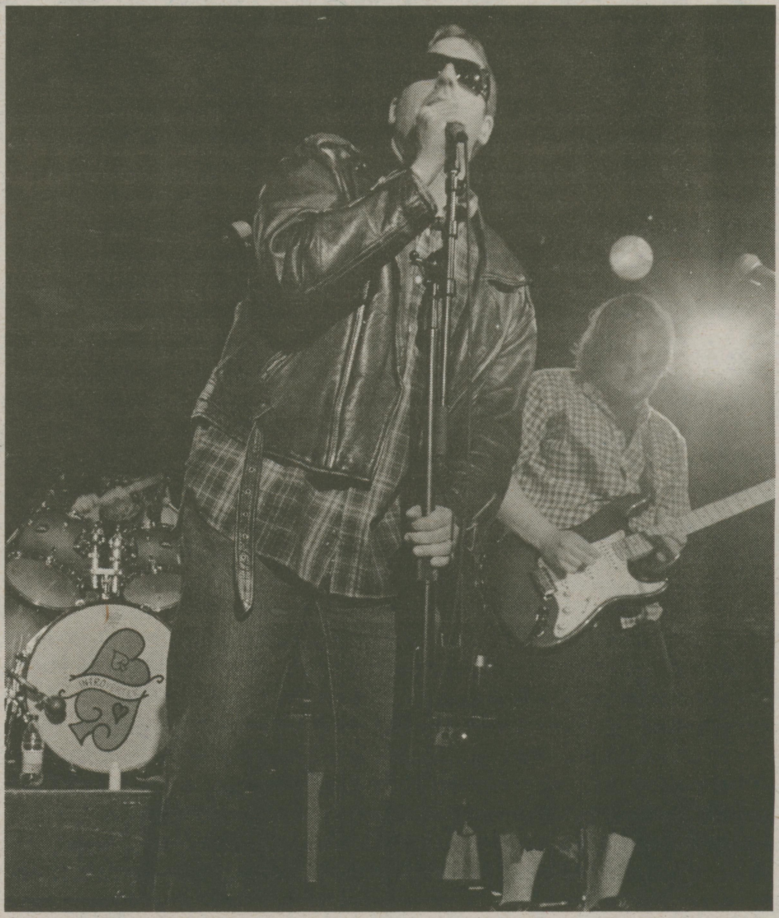
Bush, who spent a year at recording school at the Art Institute of Burnaby, recorded, mixed, engineered and produced the album between his home, his dad's basement in Courtenay and in Introverter's practice space in the Gamma Pro Jams studio.

Currently, Introverter is working on an EP that includes remixes, b-sides and a four-song acoustic set with friends from The Daylights and 12 Steps. The band hopes for a New Year's release.

The acoustic set, informally called "Songs for the Ladies," consists of "the lovey songs that you don't want to fill an album with, but everyone writes," Bush said.

Nov. 29 will mark Introverter's first show outside of Victoria, when they play The Legion in Courtenay.

Check out the band on their website, introverter.com.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Introverter maintains that their main goal is to entertain a crowd.

Aidan Knight's folk-rock comedy wins hearts of fans

Grady Mitchell

Not many musicians would describe their sound as folk-rock comedy, or list cereal as one of their main interests. Local singer Aidan Knight does both.

Knight, now 22, was born and raised in Victoria. He began playing piano at the age of four, encouraged by his musical parents. He remembers dinner parties at his house growing up, with family friends jamming in the living room while his mom baked pizza in the kitchen.

For Knight, practicing music was mainly a childhood chore, enforced by his parents. That changed when he picked up a guitar at age 15. He wrote his first songs that same year, and, at age 16, played his first show accompanied by his mother, at the Second Story Café on Johnson Street.

Knight rides a blue, white and pink bicycle. During the interview, his long, thin frame is bundled in a thick, down vest over top a sweater. A knit toque almost hides his long brown hair.

This past October he released two EPs. The first, entitled "Awktober," was recorded with his girlfriend, Julia Wakal, another talented musician with a degree in the performing arts.

They began recording Oct. 9, and finished the four-song release 12 days later. The title reflects autumn, where Knight says he draws most of his inspiration — and his sense of awkward humour.

The second, five-song release entitled "Hi There," was put out 36 hours after "Awktober," although it had been in the works for several weeks. His quirky sense of humour is evident in his songs, like "Salmon As Loners," and "Magic Cupboards," inspired by his "recent endeavors in the world of home baking."

He's not always a joker, though. On the track "Jasper," he sings, "Take me down to the water/ Fill you up with the deepest of sorrows," backed by sparse, echoing guitar chords. He says "Land's End" off the "Hi There" EP was one of the hardest songs to write, and even harder to sing. Its steady acoustic chords underpin the story of a person struggling to open up to a loved one.

On top of vocals, Knight plays almost every instrument on his songs, ranging from guitars and bass, to drums and organs. His influences include Neil Young, Wilco, Fleet Foxes and Bon Iver.

Knight maintains a complete transparency policy. On his online profiles on facebook.com, virb.com and bandcamp.mu, he describes the entire process of song creation, including writing, recording and editing. The cover of the "Awktober" EP shows every item used to create the album.

These range from the obvious like guitars, mic stands and mixing boards, to stranger things including a pink bandana to muffle the microphones, and something that resembles a cheese grater, which denies explanation.

Some of the photographs for his EPs were taken from one of the two rooms in the home where "Awktober" was recorded — these rooms were jokingly named "Studio A" and "Studio B."

Releasing his songs took guts, even though in many ways Knight doesn't expect they will venture much past the shores of Vancouver Island.

He did have to finally accept that his recordings would never be perfect.

"You have to listen to the part of the song where you breathe funny and resist the urge to cut it," Knight said. "That's the part of the song that's really human. You have to let yourself be in what you create. If you don't, you're not growing as an artist."

Music may be Knight's first passion, but breakfast cereal is a close second. He's at a loss to choose his favourite.

"I don't even think I could answer that," he said. "It's an impossible question."

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The old, the new and the absurd

Q-Tip gives cred to aging stars, Eagles dish out emotional album and Worms just plain silly

Q-TIP THE RENAISSANCE

The Renaissance
Q-Tip
UNIVERSAL MOTOWN

Rappers are getting old.

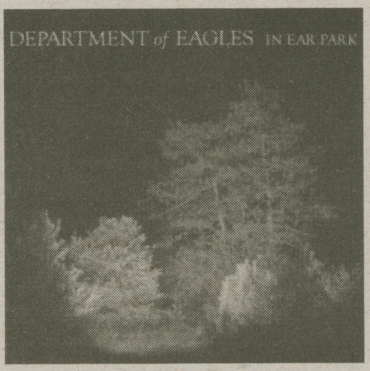
Many of hip-hop's founding fathers have gone grey in the beard. Dr. Dre now clocks in at 43 years of age. Common hasn't sported a hairline for a good decade. And now Q-Tip (nearly two decades after his debut with A Tribe Called Quest) returns with his second solo effort, *The Renaissance*.

Despite a nine-year break from his debut solo album, Amplified, Q-Tip delivers an product chock full of his signature jazz-infused beats and helium-packed nasal congestion raps on *The Renaissance*. The album's tracks range from funked-up sociological musings on "Manwomanboogie" to tense neo-soul-inspired relationship talk in "You." The album finds its feet on the third track, the criminally catchy lead single "Gettin' Up."

In what may be the album's greatest nod of maturity, closing track "Shaka" deals with death and remembrance in a more understated way than hip-hop's typical schmaltzy fashion (like "I'll Be Missing You"). The track is grounded by a loop straight out of Midnight Marauders-era A Tribe Called Quest while Q-Tip pays respect to J Dilla, the late co-producer of Amplified.

Q-Tip may be pushing 40, but he brings a wealth of maturity and veteran skill to *The Renaissance*. Plus any album that can make Norah Jones sound cool and resuscitate D'Angelo from death needs definite consideration as one of the year's strongest and most surprising hip-hop albums.

-Matt Lundy



Department of Eagles
In Ear Park
4AD

It may be ridiculous to refer to Department of Eagles as a Grizzly Bear side project, but I still catch myself doing it.

I also can't seem to help but gauge *In Ear Park* against Grizzly Bear's 2007 masterpiece *Yellow House*.

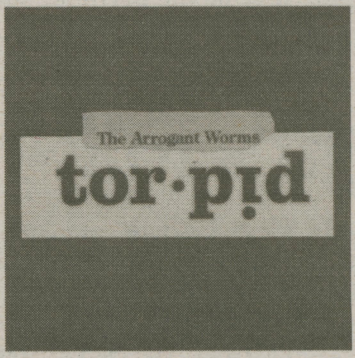
The two albums are incredibly expansive. They shatter any ceiling listeners may have placed on the groups based on their previous output. They combine pop hooks with complex arrangements and focus on the textures of individual instruments and subtle reverberations.

That said, *In Ear Park* is the more hospitable of the two albums. Songs like "Teenagers" and "No One Does It Like You" (which, disturbingly, shares its name with a Bon Jovi tune) serve as a kind of welcome mat to the album.

Department of Eagles has all the ingredients for making great pop songs ("Teenagers" at times feels like it could be a jukebox hit of the late 1950s). Certain tracks also share the capacity to get stuck in your head for days at a time. They're so good, that on first listen the rest of the record seems to fade into the background.

But one thing *In Ear Park* demands is revisiting — its every spin pulls you deeper in.

- Arthur Hain



Torpid
The Arrogant Worms
SELF RELEASED

Torpid, The Arrogant Worms' 12th CD release, is a welcome return to their live stage banter, but lacks the wit of previous years.

Their song-choice formula remains intact. As with previous outings, *Torpid* features several song-style parodies ("Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah, Blah" and "Punk Rocker"), but as even the Worms tell listeners on the album, "after all this time, there're only a couple of genres left — and they're really bad ones."

Also included on the album is the obligatory Canadian patriotism song, "If I Were Prime Minister," for which they're famous. Familiar listeners expect these staples in their diet of Worms, but Torpid's contributions fall flat compared to prior outings.

This album's strength comes when Mike, Chris and Trevor diverge into observational humour and awkward situations, such as in "My Boy," where they sing about "getting mixed messages from the boy," as one of their sons first plays war games with plastic army men, and then has the men fall in love and dance around a garden.

Chuckle-worthy tunes also include "My Neighbour's Learning Saxophone," and "Big Box Store." On the whole, however, most tracks may leave listeners wondering if the Worms were recording every single idea they had.

For the owners of seven Arrogant albums, you'll be happy to have this in your collection, but don't expect it to get much play compared to *Dirt, Live Bait,* or *Idiot Road.*

-Andrew Wade

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Salmon Kings come up short against Alaska Aces

Philippe Granger

The Victoria Salmon Kings went 1-1-1 during a three-game series against the visiting top-seeded Alaska Aces this past weekend.

In the Wednesday Nov. 19 match, the first of the three-game series, Victoria out-shot Alaska 35-26, but still came up short as the Aces doubled the Salmon Kings' goal tally with a score of six to three.

While the teams tied at 1-1 after the first period, Alaska tried to pull away with goals on the power play, but Victoria kept evening it up until the score was 3-3. Alaska pulled away with the win, however, after scoring three unanswered goals.

It was a lacklustre performance by the Salmon Kings, as their players showed up without the intensity needed to gain the critical two-point win.

Friday's battle was a different story, as the Salmon Kings came out strong, drawing a penalty 35 seconds into the game.

Victoria's Jacob Dietrich potted his first goal of the season, as he connected with a Curtis Billsten pass that drew Alaskan goaltender Chris Holt out of position before tapping the puck in on the wrap-around.

"I've always struggled with slow start[s] all my career, and every year it seems like it takes longer to finally get one," Holt said.

Salmon Kings' goaltender Jonathan Boutin had something to prove on Friday, as he looked to rebound after Wednesday's defeat.

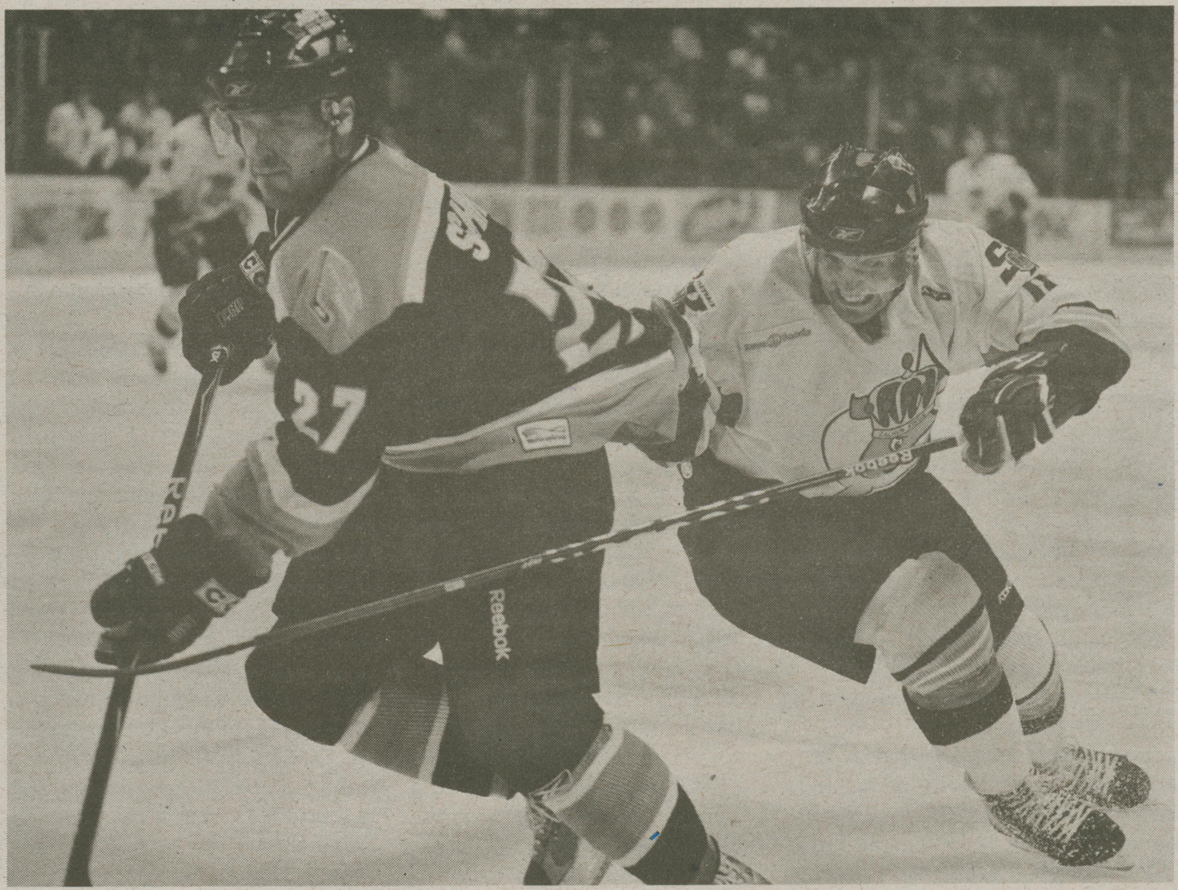
"When I was younger, [rebounding after losses] was my biggest problem," Boutin said. "But the older I'm getting, I'm learning that I need to forget as soon as the period is over and be ready for the next [one]."

The home side had a composed performance in comparison to Wednesday's match. The Salmon Kings' manager Mark Morrison was pleased with his side's performance.

"I thought we were a lot better on the forecheck," Morrison said. "We spent a lot of time in their end in the second and I think we tired them out a little bit. We had some guys step up, Darryl Lloyd [was great] offensively and defensively. Olivier Fillion probably played 35 to 40 minutes and did an incredible job for us."

The final meeting between the division rivals on Saturday, Nov. 22, saw a Salmon Kings comeback while the third period slipped into overtime. With the score at 3-0 for the Aces at the 30-minute mark, the Salmon Kings started pouring it on and scored their three straight goals from Shaun Landolt, Dan Gendur and Olivier Labelle.

Despite the Salmon Kings having out-shot the Aces 46-29, the game was still tied at 3-3 after 60 minutes, and overtime was needed to determine a winner. A questionable penalty was called soon after on the Salmon Kings' forward Labelle, setting up the Alaskan game-winner.



SANDRA MINARIK PHOTO

Victoria's physicality was much higher on Friday night as they pulled away with their only win of the series.

Alaskan Ace Bryan Miller sniped a power play goal past Boutin to end the game 4-3 and steal the victory.

Morrison was disappointed with the officiating.

"To me it was the non-calls, [which was] why we lost the game," Morrison said. "When you outshoot a team 50-30, you should be on the bottom end of penalties. I'm not happy about it."

Despite the tough loss, Morrison was still pleased with his team.

"As far as I'm concerned, we're playing good hockey," he said. "[It was an] exciting game; the guys in here don't quit. They play with a lot of passion and we've played like that for the past few weeks and I don't see that changing."

The Salmon Kings sit in fourth place in the West Division at 8-7-1-1. That's eight wins, seven losses, one overtime loss and one shootout loss.

The Aces, however, are holding first place in the West at 12-3-0-1, losing only their third game of the season to the Kings last Friday night.

NHL head shot warning offers nothing but confusion

Steve Lancashire

With dangerous hits causing a rapid increase in player injuries, the NHL Head Office has decided to take a stand.

The catalyst for this controversial issue came on Nov. 12, as Ottawa Senators forward Jarkko Ruutu skated off the ice with his familiar smirk in front of an irate Montreal Canadien fan base.

In an attempt to check his opponent off the puck, Ruutu tossed out his elbow, connecting with Canadien Maxime Lapierre's head, sending the young forward to the ice. Fortunately, Lapierre wasn't seriously hurt on the play and was able to watch as his teammates proceeded to pay harsh retribution to the Ottawa Senators' agitator.

For Ruutu's penalty, which leaves any Vancouver Canucks fan embarrassed to have once cheered on his antics as he harassed Dion Phaneuf and the Calgary Flames, Ruutu received a game misconduct and a meager two game suspension from NHL police chief Colin Campbell.

Following the incident, Campbell sent a memorandum to each NHL franchise.

"We cannot and will not tolerate blows to the head that are deliberate, avoidable and illegal," the memorandum stated.

Each team was to post this memorandum in their locker room for their players to glance over before stepping onto the ice for practice.

But how effective will a piece of paper pinned to every NHL locker room be? The miniature fabric stop sign sewed to the back of every British Columbia Minor Hockey League jersey doesn't stop players from plastering each other's face masks into the boards.

For many, eliminating all head shots from the game of hockey is about as likely as Don Cherry being elected Prime Minister. The question of what exactly constitutes the head shots that Colin Campbell and the NHL brass are referring to is still unclear.

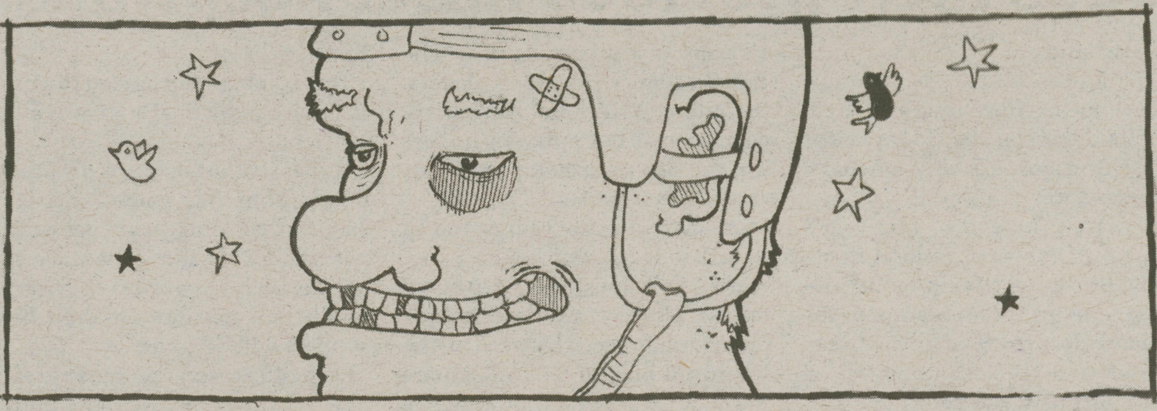
There's confusion over whether the memorandum is simply referring to Jarkko Ruutu's blatant elbow to the head or if the head shot warning includes hits where no real intent to injure is present, such as Doug Weight's colossal, yet legal, hit on Carolina Hurricanes forward Brandon Sutter last month.

Calgary Flames defensman Cory Sarich is a prime example of how players are confused by the document.

"It's tough when you start talking about blows to the head," said Sarich. "Just the overall language and everybody's perception is so different so it's hard to put it into words."

One of hockey's most exciting parts is the speed and intensity at which it is played. With new equipment and technology appearing yearly and the enhanced strength and conditioning of players, the speed and skill of the NHL can only increase.

With that speed, however, comes the reality that accidents are bound to happen. But these accidents can be avoided; it takes caution and respect for fellow players.



MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

The memory of watching Eric Lindros' motionless body strewn out over the Wachovia Center back in 2000 reminds many of the dangers that hockey (and having your head down against Scott Stevens) brings.

Unfortunately, that danger won't change because Colin Campbell has threatened disciplinary actions.

In a conversation with concussion victim Simon Gagne of the Philadelphia Flyers, general manager Paul Holmgren said it was up to the players to make the changes.

"You guys [the players] have to start talking about it," Holmgren said. "It's not going to come from the officials or the league; it has to come from the players."

If the NHL truly wants head shots and dangerous checks reduced from hockey, it will have to clearly distinguish what is legal and what is a blatant disregard for a player's safety.

Hockey is played with intensity and most know accidents will inevitably happen. It is the nature of the game.

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Vikes split nail-biting series with Trinity Western

Eric Hertz

UVic welcomed back former two-time all-star Jacob Doerksen to his old home court on Friday, Nov. 21, with mixed results.

With a high-flying block in the opening minutes of play, UVic's Tyler Haas let Doerksen, now playing for Trinity Western, know the Vikes were doing just fine without him.

The block fired up Haas who then reeled off seven straight points. Trinity Western's Brian Banman scored five early points despite good defence from the Vikes.

Coming off the bench, UVic's Cyril Indome provided two three-pointers and maintained a strong defensive presence.

Although Doerksen was held scoreless in the first quarter, he left his mark on the defensive end with a block on Indome.

Haas started the second quarter off with a bang, going in for an uncontested fast break dunk that brought the crowd to their feet. But Doerksen got it going for Trinity Western, hitting a baby hook in the lane before converting a layup.

Brandon Dunlop hit a step-back three pointer to give the Vikes a 16-point lead, before Doerksen went on another run. The former Vikes member hit a fast break layup, followed by a contested three and a pull-up jump shot. The score was 38-29 for the Vikes going into the second half.

Haas continued his dominant play at the start of the second half, hitting a layup while being fouled, then converting the ensuing free-throw to complete the and-1 play.

Haas was then called for a flagrant foul against Trinity Western's Jamie Vaughan. Momentum seemed to swing in Trinity Western's favour after Vaughan hit both free throws.

Ryan McKinnon was quick to swing the momentum back to UVic, however, with an and-1 of his own. Dunlop had two steals that led to easy Vikes buckets, giving them a 51-38 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Trinity battled hard to give the crowd an exciting finish. Banman and Vaughan combined to bring the game within five points by the middle of the quarter.

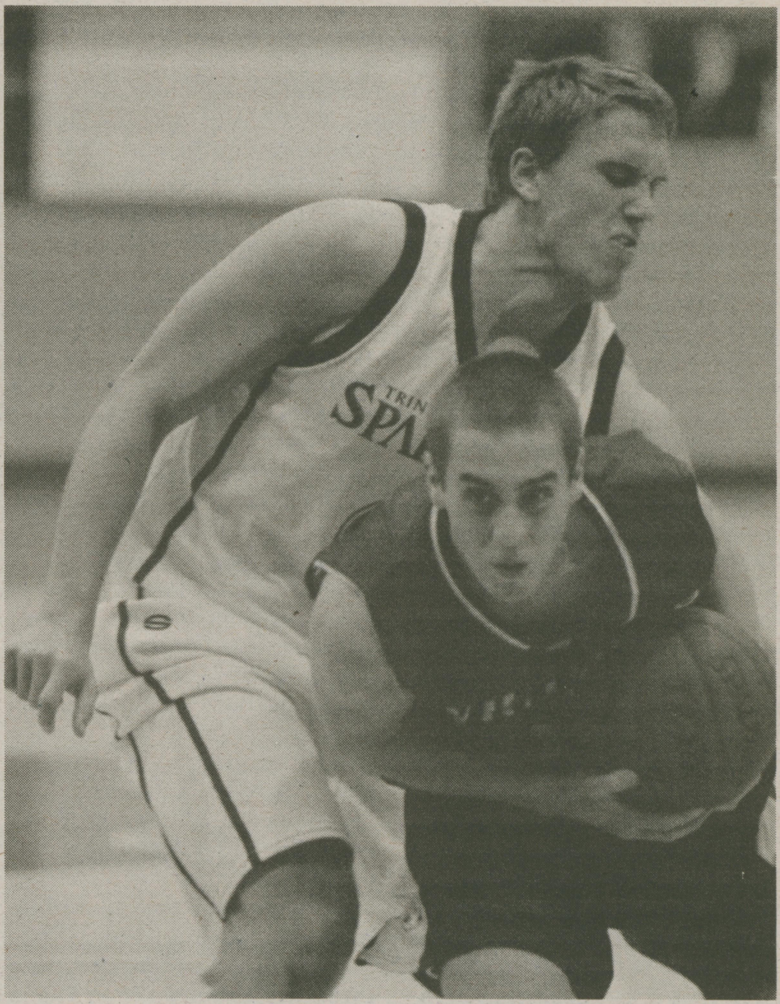
After trading baskets, Trinity's Vaughan made the most of an errant Vikes' pass by converting an and-1 to bring Trinity within two points of the Vikes. Indome then knocked down a clutch three-pointer to push the lead back to five and the Vikes never looked back. The final score was 68-61.

UVic's Haas dropped 22 points, Dunlop had 13 and Gudgeon provided 12 points and 13 rebounds. Doerksen led Trinity with 18 points, but was unimpressive as he went 7-16. Three other Spartans scored in double figures but it was not enough to overcome the Vikes.

The second game looked like it would play out the same with the Vikes carrying a four-point lead into half time. But in the third quarter the Vikes put up four points as the Spartans came back big with 24 points.

The lead was too much to overcome as Trinity took a 66-51 road win. Dunlop was the only Vikes member in double figures on Saturday night, with 12 points. Gudgeon had eight rebounds but only managed six points on 2-10 shooting. Doerksen was in fine form for the Spartans with 23 points and 11 rebounds while Jamie Vaughan dropped 20.

With the weekend split, the Vikes remain second in the Pacific division. UVic will put their unbeaten road record on the line when they visit the only team ahead of them, the UBC Thunderbirds, next weekend.



LEAH SHEITEL PHOTO

Jacob Doerksen (left) made his presence felt on Saturday with 23 points.

LUNDY'S RUNDOWN

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Suns melt previous misconceptions

Matt Lundy

The Phoenix Suns bring a different look this season after four years as the NBA's most explosive offensive juggernaut.

Towards the end of last year's season, first-year general manager Steve Kerr manufactured a deal sending Shawn Marion to the Miami Heat for Shaquille O'Neal, a four-time NBA champion whose on-court play had deteriorated to just the level of his rapping abilities.

The move attempted to solidify their low-post presence and mark a shift to a methodical half-court offence.

The Suns bowed out, however, in the first round of the playoffs after the San Antonio Spurs throttled their new style of play.

Shortly after, Mike D'Antoni, their decorated head coach who spearheaded the league's most exciting offence alongside Victoria's Steve Nash, was fired and ended up signing with the New York Knicks for big money.

Expectations are much lower in Phoenix this season thanks to the rise of younger teams, with New Orleans as a prime example. The Suns' reliance on older players, including O'Neal and Nash, have cost them as both players are facing the downward slope of their respective careers.

So where do the Suns stand in their 2008-09 campaign?

After 14 games, their projected fall in Western Conference supremacy has been thwarted by the improved play of O'Neal, Amare Stoudamire's overall dominance and the addition of starting-small forward Matt Barnes.

Yet given the blistering start by the Los Angeles Lakers, and a repeat cast of Western Conference contenders, the Suns need to improve in key areas if they wish to make it out of the first round of the playoffs.

The point guards in the West will throw youth and quickness at Nash, whose back pain rivals that of a 55-year-old construction foreman.

Between the New Orleans Hornets' Chris Paul, the Utah Jazz's Deron Williams and the recently traded Chauncey Billups of the Denver Nuggets, Nash faces a top-tier point guard on a nearly nightly basis.

This combination has led to a dip in Nash's individual statistics and efficiency.

His assist totals have dropped nearly four per game, and his shooting percentages are below 50 per cent for the first time since he left the Dallas Mavericks. If Nash's production continues to drop, his support will be gone.

Each off-season the Suns repeat how Nash will be given less minutes in preparation for the playoffs, but his minutes have barely diminished.

This is due to the weakness at the back-up point guard position, currently manned by rookies Goran Dragic of Slovenia, and Sean Singletary of the University of Virginia.

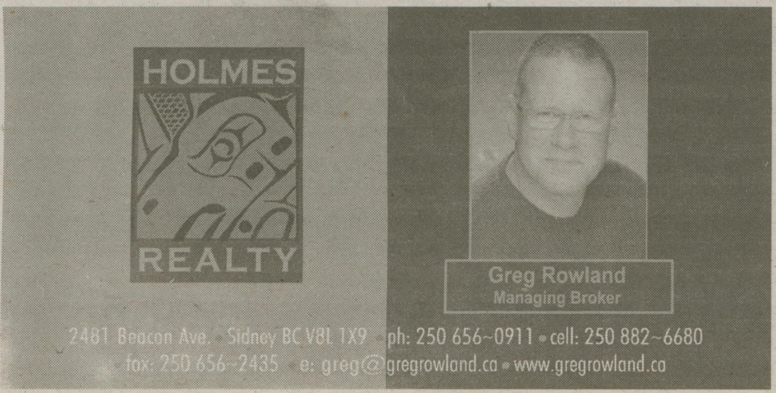
Through 13 regular-season games, Dragic and Singletary have combined for a miniscule 5.6 points per game on embarrassing shooting percentages.

Boris Diaw has completely fallen off the map since he followed a stellar 2005-06 season with a summer of McDonald's take-out and levels of physical inactivity rivalled only by George Costanza.

For the first time in five years, Phoenix finds themselves as an underdog in the competitive Western Conference.

With little expectation resting on their shoulders, perhaps the Suns can make another playoff run and succeed under a slower style of play.

In the meantime, they must find stability at the back-up point guard spot and inspire lethargic stars to levels of play reminiscent of seasons past.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Vikes dominate series against TWU Spartans

Eric Hertz

The UVic women's basketball team defended their home court with two impressive wins this past weekend and succeeded in taking second place in the Pacific division.

Friday night's game started off like many Vikes games with Kayla Dykstra leading the way with three early layups and some strong post defence that led to Trinity Western turnovers. UVic's Kelsey Anonsen then scored seven straight points for the Vikes, who took a 16-6 lead into the second quarter.

Trinity Western's Laura Craig played well from the guard position, using her size to get into the lane to create scoring opportunities for herself and her teammates.

The second quarter started with more strong play from Kelsey Anonsen and Kayla Dykstra. Anonsen assisted on a Dykstra layup, then setup Vanessa Forstbauer for an easy bucket after a steal.

Vikes' rookie Debbie Yeboah was a sparkplug off the bench, hitting first a three, and then converting a layup off an offensive rebound.

Trinity could not get their offence going in the first half. They missed a number of open shots and had decent opportunities but couldn't seem to buy a bucket.

A 3-1 fast break opportunity was even squandered as the visitors stuggled to gain momentum. Additionally, their full court trap press was doing nothing to stop the Vikes and often left Trinity Western out of position in their half-court defence.

With the score 39-16 after the half, the Vikes seemed poised to win big and did not disappoint.

Dykstra scored two early lay-ups before the Vikes began focusing their offensive efforts on other players. Trinity Western's Lauren Doubroff answered Dykstra's post baskets with scores of her own.

Trinity had a far better offensive quarter, matching their point total from the first half.

Trinity's Laura Craig had a highlight reel block on a seemingly wide-open Vikes layup. Even so, the Vikes were still up big at the end of the third, 56-32.

The Vikes got their starters some well-deserved rest in the fourth, and still managed to extend their lead.

Corina Reimer played well for Trinity in the fourth, but could not pull the game any closer as it all ended 79-39 for the Vikes.

Dykstra finished with 22 points and six rebounds in limited minutes.

Jane Anhlot had a strong all-around game with 13 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Amanda Knauff was the only double-digit scorer for Trinity Western, with 10 points.

In Saturday's match, the Vikes were led by a second year bench player. Rochelle Thoutenhoofd, with a career scoring average of around two points per game, poured in 13 points in 15 minutes.

Dykstra had a double-double with 15 rebounds and 12 points. Forstbauer followed suit with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Trinity was led by Laura Craig who had 22 points but was the only player with double digits. The final score was Vikes 65, Trinity Western 48.

Next week, the Vikes travel to Vancouver to face off against bitter rivals UBC Thunderbirds. UBC currently sits fourth in the Canada West university sport standings.

Vikes run up score line against rivals James Bay

Jonathon Wolsey

Coming off a tough lost to Cowhichan on Nov. 15, the UVic women's rugby team showed no mercy against an unorganized James Bay side last Saturday, Nov. 22, as they thumped their cross-town rivals 32-0.

UVic started slow and relied on the performace of their defence to hold the opposing team from crossing their try line.

Much of the first half was played in the middle of the field with few scoring chances until Vikes' fly half, Amanda Campbell made a quick step, beating her opposite number to score the opening try. The Vikes added two points with the successful conversion to shake off their poor start.

James Bay was reluctant to see the momentum change as they pushed forward for an equalizer. But it was through the running of UVic's prop Chelsey Minter, outside centre Randi Hunter and flanker Amelia Bieling, that the Vikes were able to relieve the attacking pressure.

Along with the charges up the field, the Vikes used their kicking ability to give themselves space, and caused James Bay to look disorganized at times in the back.

UVic's Sam So was next to score a try as she connected with a string of passes after a deep kick into centre field.

Throughout the game, both sides were vicious in their play off the ball as women from both teams threw punches and hit one another. The Vikes were able to keep their composure, and refused to let James Bay's physiciality affect their game plan.

UVic's full back Selina McGinnis broke the line in two and twisted some ankles by side-stepping two players and using her speed to beat her opposing wingers for the third UVic try of the game.

UVic's Hunter continued to lift the home side's intensity, and drove over for a try. Soon after, UVic's Sanna Webman spun around her opponents and was able to capitalize on James Bay's defensive gaps to score another try.

The next play saw UVic's Chelsey Minter cross the line of scrimmage for a try before it was questionably called back for being held up.

The ensuring scrum saw no. 8, Jesse Olynyk, sneak across the try line to put the game away.

James Bay looked frustrated and tried to finish the game on a high point as they continued to attack. The Vikes' line held strong, however, and dug in deep to keep the visitors at bay.

UVic coach Brad Skene commented on the approach used of focusing in on his young team's speed.

"I was really happy with the girls buying in and working hard," Skene said.

With the valuable five points, UVic sits in fourth place with 14 points, while James Bay is in third with15 points. Cowichan stands in second place with 22 points, and Velox is leading the table with 35 points in the Vancouver Island Rugby Union (VIRU) standings.

Both UVic and James Bay have two more games to play while Velox has one and Cowhichan finished their season last week against UVic.

Next week, UVic could could climb the standings when they face off against the same James Bay side at Macdonald Park on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 11:30am.

ANDREW SMITH PHOTO

UVic's runners (yellow) were difficult to tackle as they ran in 32 points.

James Bay prevails in Barnard Cup preview

Andrew Smith

It looked as though James Bay and UVic were fighting for a berth in the Barnard Cup final on Saturday, Nov. 22, as the two sides battled it out at Wallace Field.

Competing for qualification wasn't the case, however, nor was it to top the Vancouver Island Rugby Union Elite standings as James Bay had an untouchable six-point lead. With both teams having sealed their berths in the Dec. 6 final at Macdonald Park, the match's outcome was insignificant other than to send a strong message for the Dec. 6 replay.

The rivalry between the two clubs is alive and well however, as both teams' rosters featured their top players and put on a performance to remember. Neither side rested their stars, nor did they experiment with new combinations. UVic's Tommy Hartlin ran at players as though he were in the final, and James Bay's Phil Mack fearlessly ran for the try line as though his sidelining injury had never happened.

UVic came close to an upset, proving their opponents are not untouchable despite having lost to them in previous three matches.

James Bay would stay perfect, however, with an undefeated 8-0 record, despite UVic's best efforts to come away with a 20-17 win. The Bays side dominated the first half as the Vikes looked shaky in the opening minutes, failing to tackle and frantically kicking away possession.

James Bay speedster Phil Mack opened the scoring as he threaded the Vikes' defence for a try. The visitors continued the pressure throughout the half as the Vikes only managed one brief run into the visitor's 22. James Bay fly half Jeff Williams finished the half with a drop goal to spread the lead 8-0.

With the possibility of James Bay managing a second try scoring shut out over the Vikes, the home side began to generate a strong offence.

After evading four tacklers, UVic's Tommy Hartlin barreled over for a try in the opening minutes of the second half. The Vikes' forward pack outshined the Bays as Neil Meechan and Andrew Tiedemann blasted through their tacklers before laying off to no. 8, Dean Neville, for their second try. Ben Grant successfully converted to give the Vikes their first lead of the match by a score of 12-8. The Vike's fitness appeared too much for James Bay as they continued to push the visitors deep into their own 22.

UVic coach Doug Tate said he thought his side should have pulled away with the win.

"At one point they were done," Tate said. "We had them against the ropes."

James Bay pulled their signature style of play, however, as they spoiled the party in the dying minutes of play. The visitors scored two tries and a conversion with five minutes to go, spreading their lead to 20-12.

A late try by UVic's Jordan Kozina put the Vikes within three points as the referee signaled for the final whistle. With Ben Grant missing the final conversion, James Bay walked away with a narrow 20-17 win.

Although James Bay emerged with the victory, the win was less than convincing as they failed to send a strong message to their Barnard Cup opponents.

With the return of five players from their European Team Canada tour this week, UVic's squad will now have their kicking game back with Nathan Hirayama and a dominant runner in centre Phil MacKenzie. The side's backline should be able to find their composure with the return of their captain, David Spicer.

The Bays will have experience on their side for the upcoming match, however, as scrum half Morgan Williams also returns from Team Canada's European tour.

James Bay finished the Vancouver Island Rugby Union (VIRU) season with a convincing 8-0 record, with the Vikes finishing 5-3.

Skim Jam rides island waves

Jeff McAllister

Showers swamped the southern part of the Island Remembrance Day weekend, but as record-breaking rainfall had the majority of Victoria locked up indoors, a few courageous athletes found their way out in the storm.

The setting was at Patchedhat Beach in Port Renfrew, where 23 skimboard enthusiasts braved the elements behind neoprene wetsuits four-thirds of a millimeter thick, $20 Wal-Mart Gumboots and swigs of Fireball whisky.

The occasion was the Sub Zero Skim Jam, Canada's first ever wave skimboarding competition. The two-day rider-judged event is the brainchild of Brandon Wright, a recent UVic Engineering graduate, and the president of SkimBC, an online resource for skimboarders.

Since its origins in Spanish Banks, Vancouver — a town famed for its hydroplane-able tidal pools, yet devoid of surf — the flatland aspect of the sport has dominated the B.C. skimboard scene.

Although it's estimated that B.C. houses one of the largest skimboard communities worldwide, it remains isolated from the rest of the globe.

"We're way behind the U.S.," said Wright, referring to larger, internationally followed American events such as the United Skim Tour.

The 22-year-old professional skimboarder considers himself a 50/50 split between a wave and flatland rider.

"One of the reasons I hosted [Sub Zero Skim Jam] was to get a chance to ride in a real Canadian wave comp," said Wright.

Wright's do-it-yourself attitude is a staple among the mavericks of independent sport. A persistence that seems to be paying off, as SkimBC.com currently receives upwards of 1,000 unique hits daily during peak season. But despite the sudden influx in the sports popularity across coastal B.C., the northern competition circuit remains untapped.

Most of the time, companies will put on a couple of events one year, and then drop off the following year, claiming to not see a sufficient spike in board sales, Wright says. He sees this as a bittersweet reality in a sport so accessible that all that one needs to get involved is a chunk of plywood and a bandsaw.

Wright recalls his first homemade board: a plywood pintail built by his father, complete with hand-painted graphics of Sonic the Hedgehog.

These days, however, Wright has developed more "refined" tastes. He currently boasts a quiver of 16 professionally-designed boards.

"You get hours of aerodynamic and wind resistant modeling going into these things," Wright said, justifying the advantages of going professional.

This is Wright's eighth event since launching SkimBC at age 16. Over the years, he had borrowed formats from other successful competitions before settling on this weekend's rider-judged jam format.

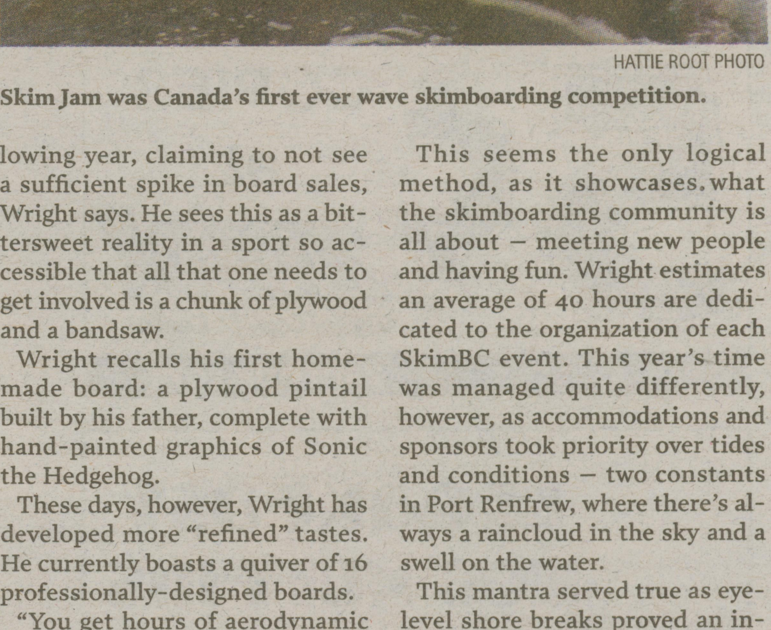
This seems the only logical method, as it showcases. what the skimboarding community is all about — meeting new people and having fun. Wright estimates an average of 40 hours are dedicated to the organization of each SkimBC event. This year's time was managed quite differently, however, as accommodations and sponsors took priority over tides and conditions — two constants in Port Renfrew, where there's always a raincloud in the sky and a swell on the water.

This mantra served true as eye-level shore breaks proved an intimidating opponent to even the most seasoned riders. Luckily, no injuries were suffered beyond the aftermath of a boozy soiree at Renfrew's Lighthouse Pub.

And although Wright was unanimously voted the weekend's top rider, all 13 in attendance walked away with a prize and a t-shirt to show for their participation in this ground breaking event.

HATTIE ROOT PHOTO

Skim Jam was Canada's first ever wave skimboarding competition.



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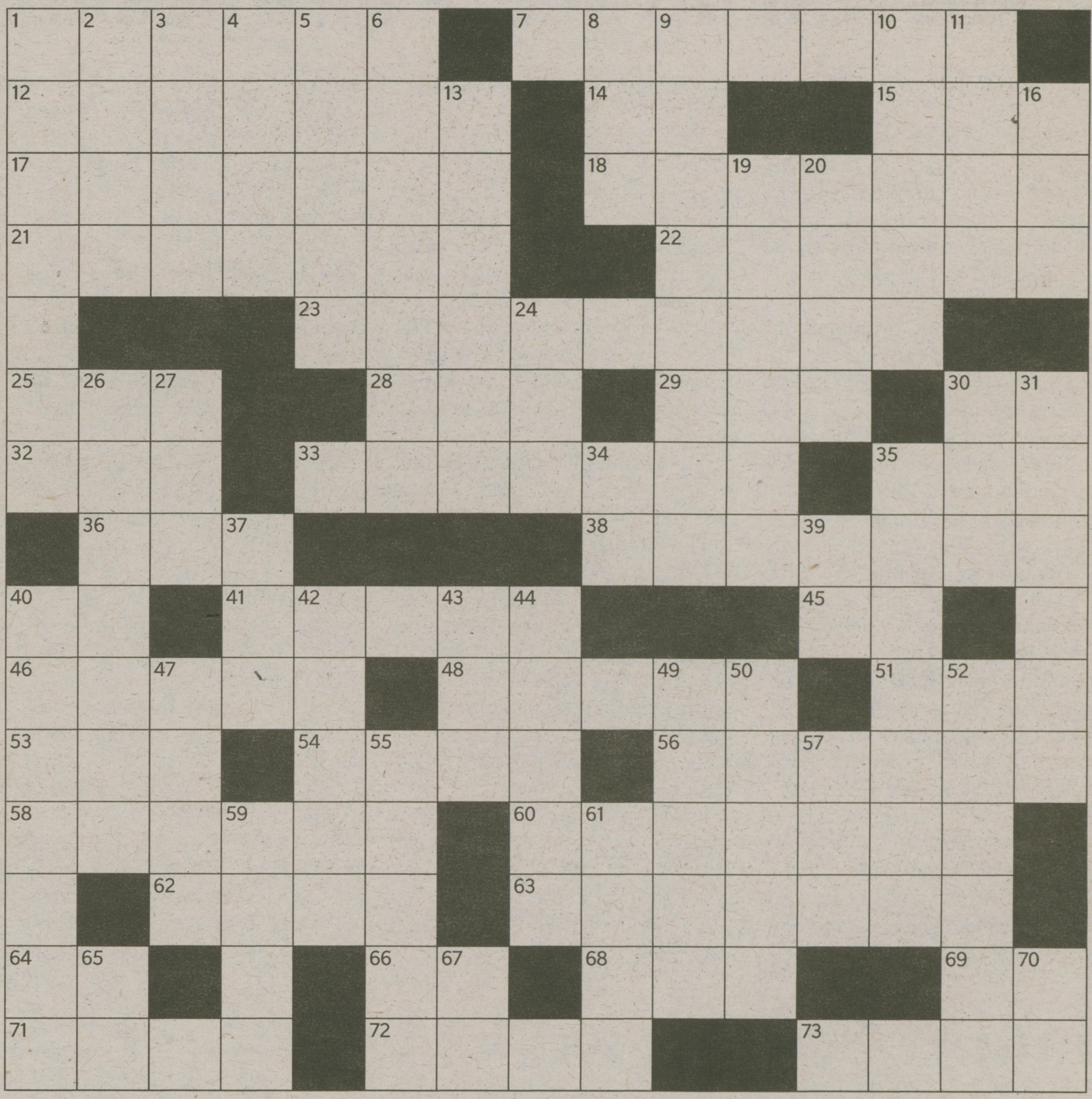

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52 Dried and marinated meat
55 Golfer's assistant
57 Genetic code
59 Christian rock band
61 Baking essential
65 Follows so
67 Father's wife
70 Deceased princess

su|do|ku

solution, tips and computer programs at www.sudoku.com

© Puzzles by Pappocom

			1					
1	7		5	6		9		
					9	5		
	5				7		4	8
6				4				5
7	8		6				1	
		3	4					
		2		8	3		6	7
					6			

THE MARTLET

Fast on the draw?
Got creative ideas?
Need a new hobby?
Draw for the Martlet!

Email grafx@martlet.ca

ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, NOV. 27

Stressed? Come Walk the Labyrinth

Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Chapel

Find some calm in the midst of a stressful day. Come after a tough exam. Come to reconnect with your divine centre. Come alone or with a friend.

Simple instructions for meditative walking of the labyrinth are posted. Event runs until December 11.

Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8338
chaplain@uvic.ca

BC First Nations & the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

12:30 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.
Clearihue Building, A127

Jennifer Preston was lead writer on Indigenous Rights: The UN Special Rapporteur Experiences and Challenges (Copenhagen 2007) and she co-edited Closing the Implementation Gap, a report following up the recommendations to Canada by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation on human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.

Fee: Free.
Info: 250-721-7346
jnewcomb@uvic.ca

Builders of the Pacific Coast

7 - 9 p.m.
Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, Room 110

Join author, photographer and pioneer of the green architecture movement Lloyd Kahn as he takes us on a tour of homes throughout the Pacific Northwest that exemplify natural materials, environmental design and innovation.

Please reserve your seat by emailing swebb@uvic.ca.

Fee: Free
Info: Sarah Webb
250-721-6678
swebb@uvic.ca

How to Survive in Homer: Plots and Inventions in the Iliad and the Odyssey

7:30 - 9 p.m.
Clearihue, A207

Dr. Ingrid E. Holmberg, Department of Greek and Roman Studies, University of Victoria, will present this lecture.

Fee: $8.50
Info: 250-721-8514
sberming@uvic.ca

UVic Child Care Services Annual Poinsettia Sale

Thursday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
University Centre, Main Lobby

All monies raised from the poinsettia sale goes towards the programs offered by UVic Child Care Services.

To pre-order your poinsettias and get the colours of your choice, contact Alex today at alexvantol@gmail.com or 250-598-0696.

Fee: $12 each
including tax
Info: 250-598-0696

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Surplus Furniture Sales

12 - 5 p.m.
UVic, Parking Lot 3

Desks, tables, chairs, shelf units, filing cabinets, VCRs, TVs, millwork pieces, random misc. items. New stock weekly. All "gently used" by UVic staff and students.

Terms: As is/where Is, cash and carry, Visa/MC/Amex/Debit, no returns, no refunds, no delivery, no storage. Items must be removed on day of purchase

Info: Stephen Wylie
250-472-5148
swylie@uvic.ca

AIMS for Africa

7:30 - 9 p.m.
University Centre, Farquhar Auditorium

Dr. Neil Turok, a world-leading theoretical physicist and the founder of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), will be speaking about AIMS and the Next Einstein Initiative.

Reserved tickets are required. For reservations call 250-721-8480 or visit www.auditorium.uvic.ca

Fee: Free
Info: 250-472-4210
khollefr@uvic.ca

MONDAY, DEC. 1

UVic Libraries United Way Book Sale

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Student Union Building, Upper Lounge

A great selection books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl and more are available for only $2 per item. A silent auction of collectable items will be held during the sale.

Help us reach $6,000 by donating books, etc at department offices, at the Library Help Desk of the McPherson Library or by calling for on campus pickup at 721-8284. For enquiries about large donations or donations from off-campus, please call 250-472-4977.

Info: 250-370-0079
jeanmac@uvic.ca

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

Deutcher Abend: Ein vorweihnachtliches Fest

7:30 p.m.
Hickman Building, 110

Come celebrate the holiday season with us. We will treat you to music by the UVic Lieder Singers, student performances, refreshments, and other surprises.

Please note that this is a German speaking event.

Fee: Free
Info: Irina Gavrilova
250-721-7316
geru@uvic.ca

LIVE CONCERTS

THURSDAY, NOV. 27

Alex Nichols, Mike Hann, Keith Gallant, Mike Roma, Jeff Scotney @ Canoe

9 - 11:30 P.M., doors at 8:30 P.M.
(No Minors).

Fee: Free

Everyone Everywhere, Skies Kill @ Evolution

9 P.M. - 2 A.M.
Tickets available at Old School Tattoos. (No Minors).

Fee: $7 in advance
$9 at the door

The Ginsu Gnyves @ the Bard and Banker

8:30 p.m. - 12 a.m.
(No Minors).

Fee: Free

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

Don Ross, Brooke Miller @ Hermann's Jazz Club

8 - 10 p.m., doors at 6:30 p.m.
(All Ages).

Fee: $25 in advance
$28 at the door

Fineas Gage, Ball Gag n' Chain Gang, trouble at the lighthouse, Justin Hewitt @ Logan's Pub

10 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 9 p.m.
Receive a free CD at the door. (No Minors).

Fee: $10

TriPOD dance collective and Qfwfq @ Open Space

8 p.m., doors at 7:30 p.m.
(All Ages)

Fee: $12 adults
$10 students

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

Jon Lajoie @ Element

9 - 11 p.m.
Tickets available at Lyle's Place, Strathcona Hotel, Ditch Records & CDs and ticketweb.ca. (No Minors).

Fee: $15

Arctic Shark, Oscar, Nox & Evoke, DJ Caskethands @ Felicita's Pub

8:30 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 8 p.m.
Madrona Farm, an organic Saanich farm, is raising money to be put in The Land Conservancy of BC. (No Minors).

Fee: $5 in advance
$7 at door

School of Rock @ Heckler's Bar & Grill

9:30 p.m. - 12 a.m., doors at 5 p.m.
(No Minors).

Fee: Free

Gary Preston, Dave Gallant @ The Paisley Restaurant

8 - 10 p.m.
(All Ages).

Fee: Free

It It, cobras COBRAS cobras, great! wood! chipper!, candles @ Recyclistas

9 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 9 p.m.
(All Ages).

Fee: Free

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interested in Suicide Prevention in the classroom? Reach out to youth in Middle and High schools. Community Education Volunteers needed. Contact Mary at 386.6328 ext 222 or visit website: www.needcrisis.bc.ca (http://www.needcrisis.bc.ca/). Training begins Jan. 12, 2009 Volunteer Services.

Valhalla Mile Benefit Show Dec. 5
Proceeds go to expanding Valhalla park. Get Up to Get Down, Rocky Mountain Rebel Music, This Timid Pimp & the Know how Sugar, and The Goodbye to Maya Party. Great mix of funk, reggae, and original beats for a great cause. Felicita's, $5 advance, $7 at the door. Ticket pre-sales Dec. 1, 2, 4, 5. For more info email caitlinp@uvic.ca.

GAY AND LESBIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE LEADERS OF GLBT COMMUNITY
Three $2,000 scholarships will be awarded in Feb. 2009 to students attending or planning to attend a British Columbia college or university.

The application process begins by visiting www.glba.org.

UVic Libraries United Way Book Sale
Monday, 1 Dec. to Wednesday, 3 Dec. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Upper Lounge, Student Union Building (room 110).

UVic is calling for donations of books, CDs, DVDs, records and more for its annual United Way Book Sale. Donations can be delivered to the Library Help Desk on the main floor of UVic's McPherson Library or call 250-472-4977 for more information.

Cut-A-Thon: Hairdressers Against AIDS
Please help the cause and join Carreiro The Studio raise funds to fight against AIDS. 25 per cent of product sales will also be donated on that day.
When: Nov. 30
Where: Carreiro The Studio, 100 - 1215 Broad St.
Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

UVic Pride AGM
Nov. 27, 5pm
Clearihue C111

Discussion of changes to Pride's structure and vision, mission and goals. Come and contribute your voice, and get a free snack in the process.

Attention Students

DENTAL COSTS are now fully covered by your student fees.

YOU no longer have to pay any portion of the costs for approved procedures if you book with a registered Dentist in the National Student Health Network Plan

As a participant in this program, we can offer you this advantage. Come and see us for the best in quality dental care offered by friendly, 'gentle' staff

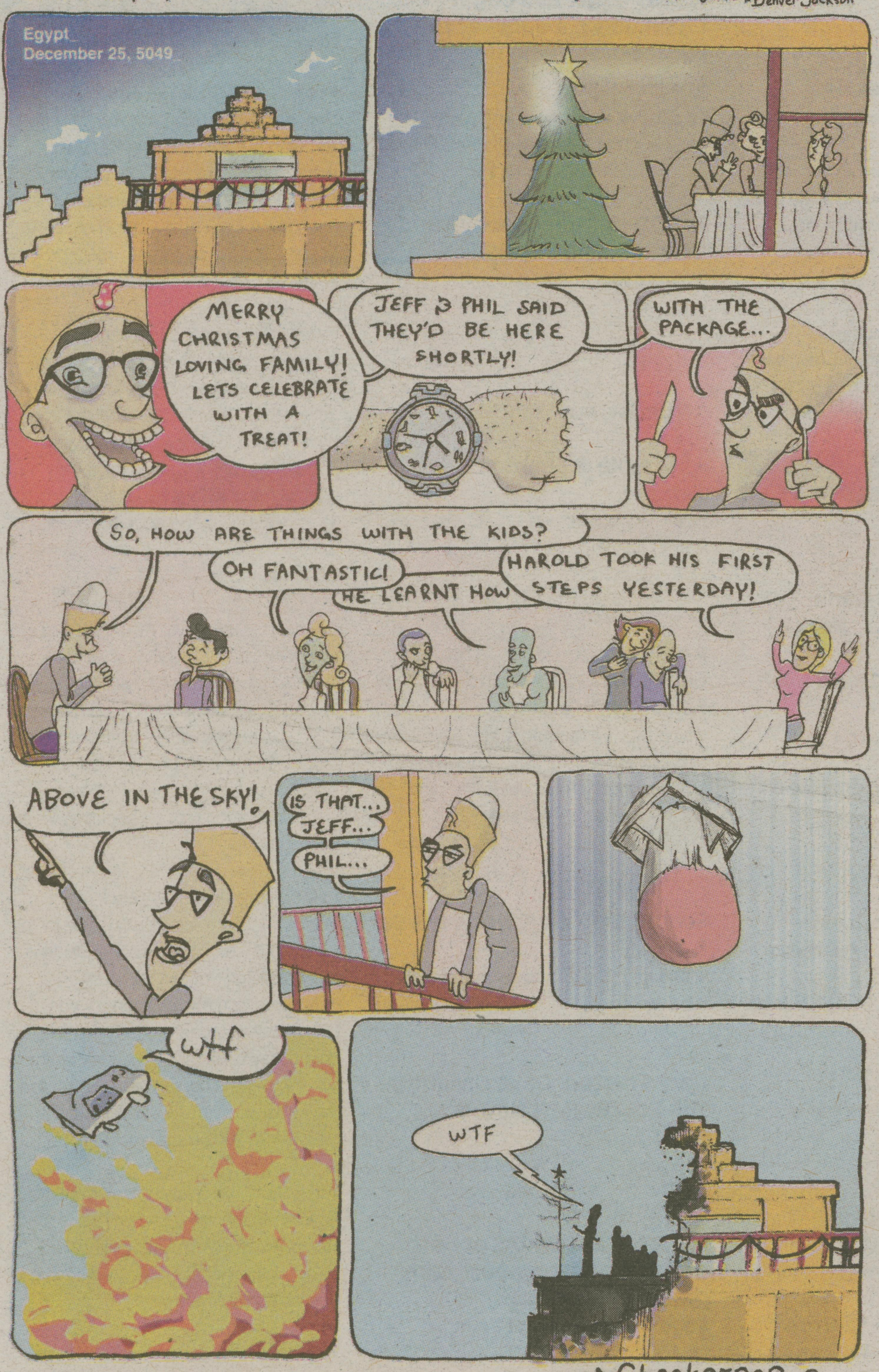
Dr. David Ward, BSC, DDS, CD (McGill)
301-1842 Oak Bay Ave
Tel: 598-5441

LIVE BANDS
DARCY'S PUB
AT DARCYS PUB
seven nights a week
MONDAY
the Broken Strings
TUESDAY
the Southern Urge
WEDNESDAY
Velvet
THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY
Monkey Wrench
SUNDAY
the Southern Urge & Brass

Comics

Checkerpop

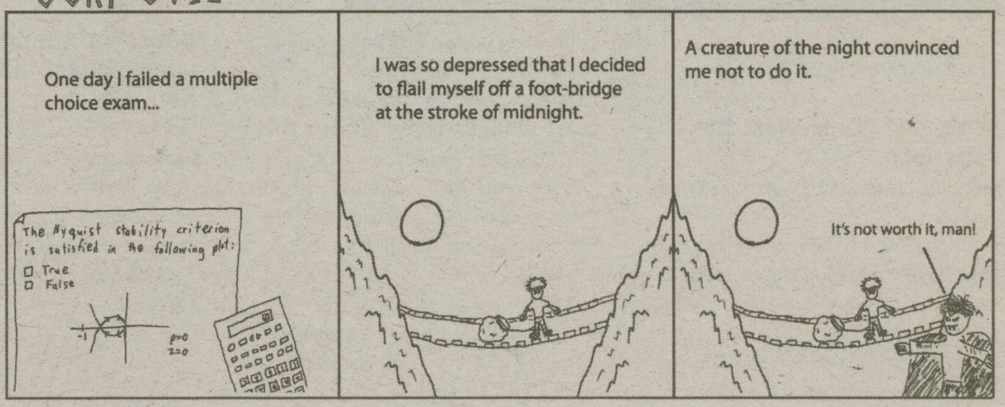
By Marc Junker & Denver Jackson


Egypt
December 25, 5049
MERRY CHRISTMAS LOVING FAMILY! LETS CELEBRATE WITH A TREAT!
JEFF & PHIL SAID THEY'D BE HERE SHORTLY!
WITH THE PACKAGE...
SO, HOW ARE THINGS WITH THE KIDS?
OH FANTASTIC!
HE LEARNT HOW
HAROLD TOOK HIS FIRST STEPS YESTERDAY!
ABOVE IN THE SKY!
IS THAT... JEFF... PHIL...
wtf
WTF

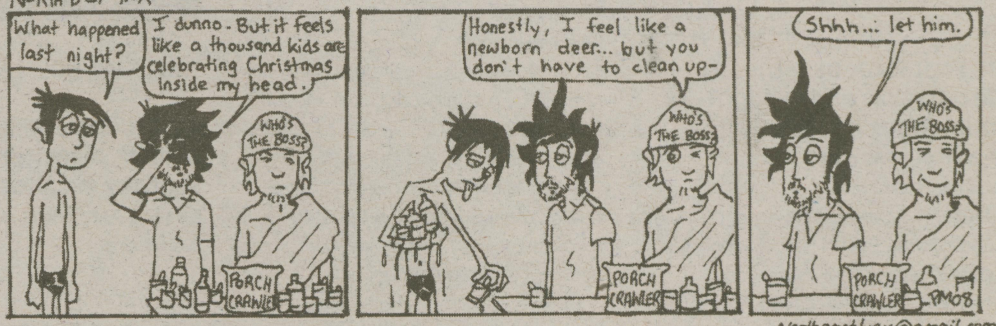
→ Checkerpop.com

CORP EVIL

Gord Duff


One day I failed a multiple choice exam...
The Nyquist stability criterion is satisfied in the following plot:
☐ True
☐ False
I was so depressed that I decided to flail myself off a foot-bridge at the stroke of midnight.
A creature of the night convinced me not to do it.
It's not worth it, man!

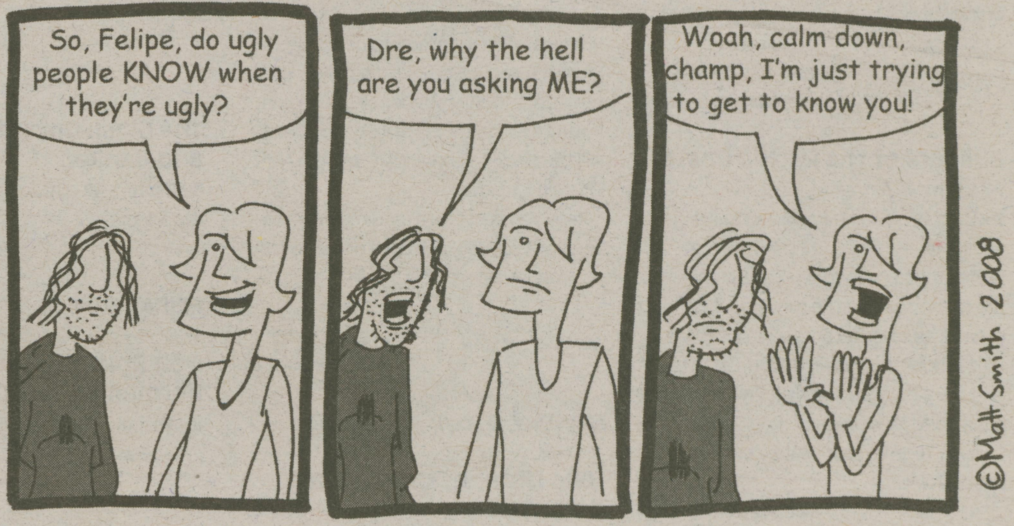
NORTH-EAST LYNX


What happened last night?
I dunno. But it feels like a thousand kids are celebrating Christmas inside my head.
WHO'S THE BOSS?
PORCH CRAWLER
Honestly, I feel like a newborn deer... but you don't have to clean up-
Shhh... let him.
PM08

Northeastlynx@gmail.com

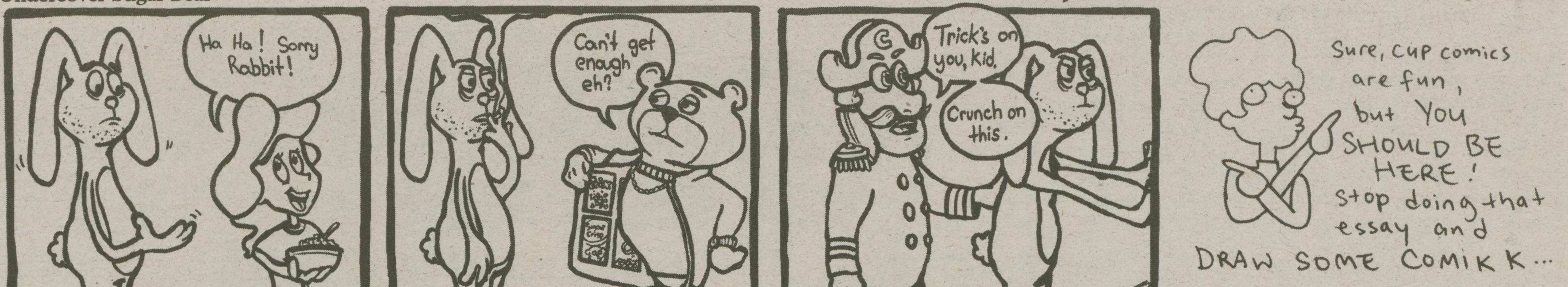
Smith vs. Smith: "Self Aware"

by Matt Smith


So, Felipe, do ugly people KNOW when they're ugly?
Dre, why the hell are you asking ME?
Woah, calm down, champ, I'm just trying to get to know you!
©Matt Smith 2008

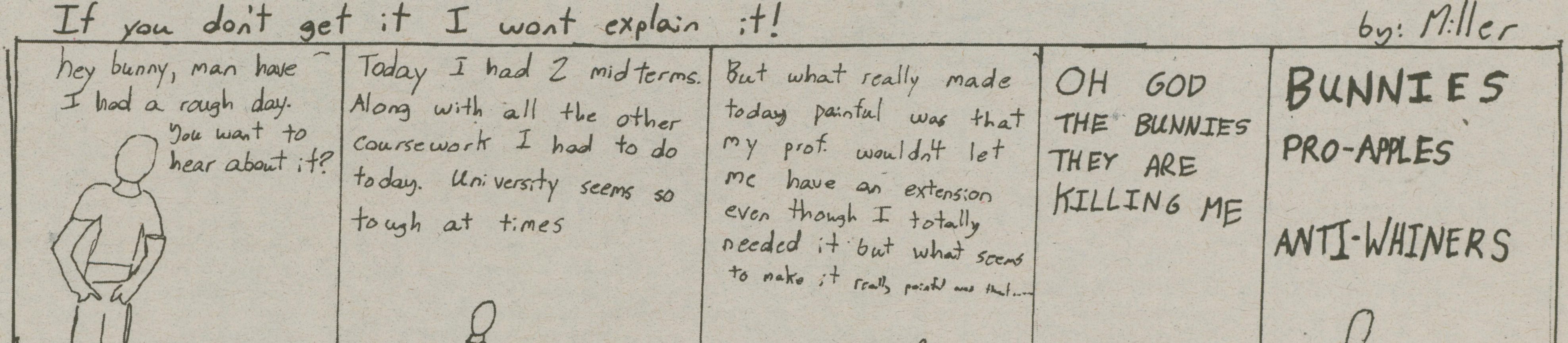
Undercover Sugar Bear

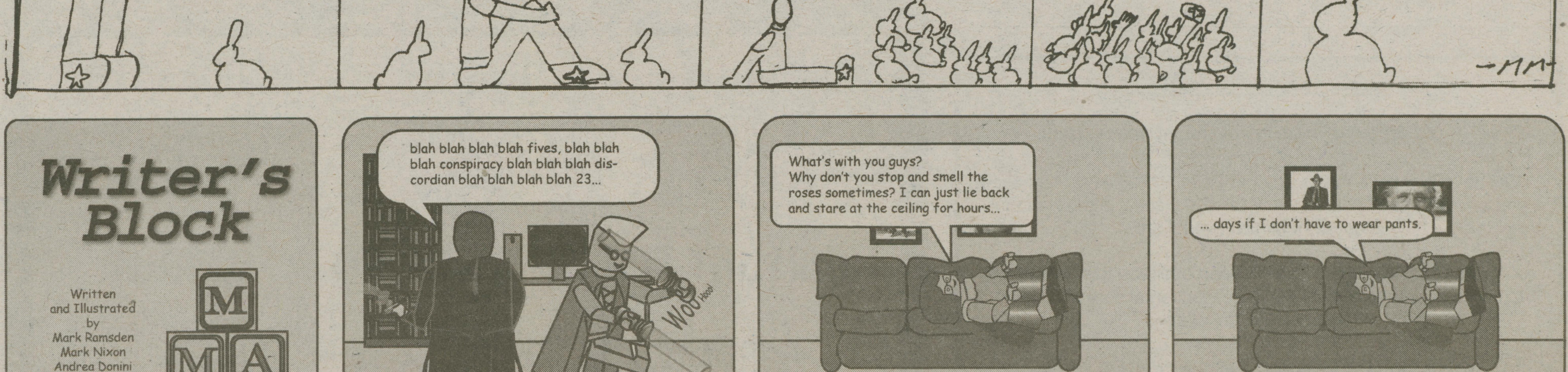
Adrian Binakaj of Nexus


Ha Ha! Sorry Rabbit!
Can't get enough eh?
Trick's on you, kid.
Crunch on this.
Sure, cup comics are fun, but YOU SHOULD BE HERE! Stop doing that essay and DRAW SOME COMIKK...

If you don't get it I wont explain it!

by: Miller


hey bunny, man have I had a rough day. You want to hear about it?
Today I had 2 midterms. Along with all the other coursework I had to do today. University seems so tough at times
But what really made today painful was that my prof. wouldn't let me have an extension even though I totally needed it but what seems to make it really painful was that...
OH GOD THE BUNNIES THEY ARE KILLING ME
BUNNIES
PRO-APPLES
ANTI-WHINERS
-MM


Writer's Block
Written and Illustrated by Mark Ramsden Mark Nixon Andrea Donini
M M A
"Days Without Pants"
blah blah blah blah fives, blah blah blah conspiracy blah blah blah discordian blah blah blah blah 23...
WOO Hoo!
What's with you guys? Why don't you stop and smell the roses sometimes? I can just lie back and stare at the ceiling for hours...
... days if I don't have to wear pants.